Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

Saipan sees 170-pct. increase in same-sex marriages. PAGE 6

Lawsuit vs Zoning chair Blanco, govt dismissed. PAGE 7

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MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2017
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BEA CABRERA

The first Marianas Film Festival red carpet and awards night were held at the luxurious and grandiose lobby of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan last Dec. 8. The event was attended by IPI executives, CNMI political leaders, film fans, and a total of 500 actors and filmmakers from Asia and the United Kingdom that flew in to the CNMI to honor the films that they are a part of and experience the beauty of Saipan.

See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

Youth is Best Picture at MIFF

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 2 local films also get awards

The 2017 Chinese coming-of-age drama film *Youth* won the Best Picture award of the first Marianas International Film Festival during its lavish and star-studded awards night last Friday at the cavernous Imperial Pacific Resort casino.

Youth is directed by Feng Xiaogang and written by Geling Yan. The film chronicles the lives of a group of idealistic adolescents who take part in an army art troupe and learn about love and the growing pains of entering adulthood.

Feng's work on *Youth* bagged him Best Director, while Na Hyeon's work on *The Prison* earned him the Best Directorial Debut

See MIFF on Page 4

Legislature backs Torres on CW

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature has thrown its support behind Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' efforts to prolong the foreign worker program past 2019, with the unanimous passage of a joint resolution over the weekend.

Demapan

The Senate adopted Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 20-07 on a vote of 8-0, showing full support for the governor's efforts to save the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program, or the CW-1 program, that is slated to expire at the end of 2019.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent from the special session.

The House passed H.J.R. 20-07 unanimously as well, with a few members absent from the session. The House vote had a count of 16-0, with Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), and its author, Demapan, absent from the session

See CW on Page 4

Sen Sun pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An overstaying Chinese tourist indicted in federal court for allegedly operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth here pleaded guilty in Superior Court on Friday.

Sen Sun, also known as Sam Sun, signed a plea deal with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens. The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years of imprisonment, a fine of not more than $250,000, probation of not more than five years, and a $1,000 special assessment.

Sun will be sentenced on March

See SEN SUN on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The U.S. job market is benefiting from an unlikely source: Other countries.

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NATION
A week of destructive fires in California is ending but danger still looms.

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LIFE & STYLE
An elaborate "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" premiere features Stormtroopers.

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Local

Tour agency reps are NMI Museum's first guests

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Museum welcomed its first batch of visitors since shutting down almost three years ago as a result of Typhoon Soudelor.

Last Nov. 26, visitors came to the NMI Museum to witness the renovations made to the faciliity and to gain knowledge of Saipan's history. According to Museum director Daniel Aquino, the group consisted of representatives of various travel agencies.

The guests were presidents of multiple Japanese travel agencies and were visiting the NMI Museum, along with Masato Tezuka, Tasi Tours, and PMT Tour representatives. The Japanese travel companies were subsidiaries of railway companies in Japan.

For most of them, the visit was their first time to discover Saipan and a chance to familiarize and educate themselves with the islands' culture and historical heritage, according to Aquino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tour agency representatives from Japan visit the NMI Museum. They are the first batch of guests since the museum closed down as a result of Typhoon Soudelor.

He hopes the visit is the starting point to hopefully revive or increase the numbers of Japanese tourists on Saipan.

Aquino is optimistic that the museum, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the visiting representatives' tour companies can work toward reviving the Japanese market and work to give tourists a must-see tourist attraction while visiting Saipan.

Aquino said that last week's visit was a very positive experience for all. The tour agency representatives were able to visually see what life was like during the pre-war and post-war era for the Japanese as well as how the life and culture of the Chamorro and Carolinian people evolved after the war.

Aquino said Tezuka thanked him and the museum's staff for accommodating his guests from Japan. Tezuka was also surprised at the transformation of the museum in such a short period of time, according to Aquino, having seen the museum before.

Those present for the tour were Konihiko Yasuki, president of Keio Travel/ Keio Railway; Hiroshi Miyata, president of Entetsu Travel/Entetsu Railway; Fuminobu Sasak, president of Okdakyu Travel/ Okdakyu Railway; Naoki Nakazawa president of Shizutetsu Travel/ Shizutetsu Railway, Nobuaki Sakamaki, president of Tobu Top Tours/Tobu Railway, Isamu Shinohara, president of Fujikyu Travel/Fujikyu Railway; Kazuhiro Tanaka, president of JTB Group; and Shinobu Omori, general manager of JTB Group.

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Latte Built hosts toy gathering charity event

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three groups—Latte Built Gym, the Matua Riders Motorcycle Club, and the 4x4 Holics—filled a pickup truck with toys that they the donated to the Toys for Tots program of the U.S. Marines Corps, which is being coursed through the Saipan Young Professionals on Saipan.

Yesterday, the riders club and the 4x4 Holics rode around the island in a convoy before making their way to the Latte Built Gym for the gym's first Toys for Tots charity event.

According to Latte Built Gym owner Derrick Cutting, he and his wife wanted to give back to the community this Christmas season after just recently relocating to a bigger facility and they decided to host a toys, yoga, barbecue, and beer charity event.

Cutting told *Saipan Tribune* it cost approximately $2,000 to prepare for the event altogether but most of the preparations were accomplished through donations from supporters and multiple agencies.

"A lot were donations from a lot of big companies. All the food were donated by a lot of the members of my gym. …Others like TanHoldings, Bridge Capital, they donated cash so that we could use it for the event," he added.

Yesterday's event started at 12pm and ended at 5pm.

According to Cutting, they started off with a yoga class. Participants were then able to choose a pint of their preferred beer, courtesy of the Saipan Brewing Co. The yoga participants were later joined by the MRMC and 4x4 Holics for a barbecue.

MRMC president Ed Flores said this was the first time the club was invited to an event like Latte Built's charity fundraiser an, according to him, they were all excited to take part. "We liked the event, there were good intentions for the kids," he said.

Flores said that this isn't their first stop of donations. The group also donated gifts to the *Man'amko* Center, to the children confined at the Commonwealth Health Center, and to children of different villages around Saipan.

"We like to help the community because we are a community-oriented group," said MRMC vice president Sandy Tudela.

MRMC member and Latte Built Gym member Marie Salas Igitol said that when Cutting discussed the idea of the charity event with her, she told the MRMC about it right away and, according Igitol, they immediately got on board.

Cutting hopes to host the event annually.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian to join global candlelight vigil

Together with its 2nd Annual "Tree of Angels," Tinian will hold its 2nd Annual Candlelight Vigil on Dec. 10, 2017, at 6:45pm. The community is invited to join and meet at the Tinian Gymnasium and walk to the San Jose Church. Candles will be lit at 7pm, together with Saipan and Guam—a candlelight vigil from time zone to time zone, as one country light theirs, and the other country blows out theirs. The event is dedicated to children of any age who have left this world too early. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Dec. 12 and 13, from 8am to 5pm in several areas on Saipan to repair a leak in a 6-inch transmission line.

The water outage will affect Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, Chalan Piao, As Lito, and Fina Sisu areas. Customers in these areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter.

Repairs will be located on the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito. Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area. ***(CUC)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Dec. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Salome A. Castro of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

BOG's Guam and CNMI holiday schedule

Bank of Guam has the following holiday hours:

■ Monday, Dec. 25, 2017: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at noon, all day Christmas Day, reopening after midnight on Dec. 26, 2017

■ Monday, Jan. 1, 2018: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at noon, all day New Year's Day, reopening after midnight on Jan. 2, 2018. ***(PR)***

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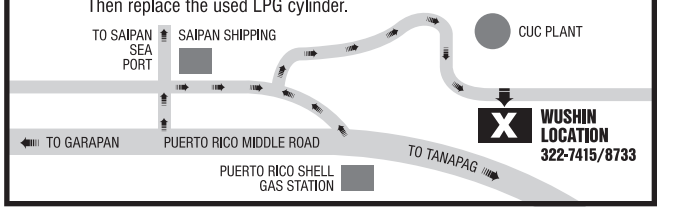

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Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil

Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing

Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee

Garlic-Herb Crusted Roast Black Mountain Prime Rib with Chestnut-Mushroom Au Jus Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes

Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis

Set Menu B

Pan Seared Sea Scallops on Saffron Cream with a Duo of Black and Pink Caviar Bouquet of Edible Wild Flowers

Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil

Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing

Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee

Fillet of Aurora Salmon on Grilled Pineapple with Avocado Tapenade Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes

Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis

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Senator requests public hearings for succession law change

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota senator is asking that public hearings be held on any law that seeks to amend the succession law in order to involve the people of the CNMI in the discussions.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) made this statement after *Saipan Tribune* solicited comments on Sen. Francisco Borja's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 20-79, which seeks to authorize the governor to appoint a new mayor to any of the islands if the position is left vacant with more than half the term remaining.

Current law allows the candidate who received the second-highest votes during the previous election to be the mayor, if still willing.

"I immediately asked that the appropriate committee conduct a public hearing on all the municipalities before the Senate members act on the bill," Manglona said. "It is my hope that that request will be honored. It is important that we hear from our people, especially since there are several already voicing their concerns."

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas has quashed rumors that he is stepping down. However, he said he supports "a move by the Legislature to amend the law regarding mayor vacancies."

In a statement from the office of Borja, he clarified that the bill was drafted in order to address concerns of employees of the late Northern Islands mayor Jerome Aldan.

"Many of those employees had the expectation of being employed for four years and took out bank loans and entered into other financial commitments based on that expectation. Their abrupt termination and non-renewal of contracts had a very negative impact on their lives and their families," said Borja. "We couldn't help them then, but we can now ensure that the unexpected death of an elected mayor, especially in situations where more than half of the term has passed, doesn't translate into hardship for those who voted to elect that mayor to begin with."

Borja added that halfway through the term of a mayor, policy initiatives and projects are already "well on the way" and that it would be "highly disruptive, costly, and detrimental if those who are tasked with their completion are uprooted and replaced with those who now have to play catch up, or worse, decide halfway through a project that it is not a priority of the new administration."

"If you look at approaches to mayoral succession taken by major U.S. cities, you will not find a situation where you have a losing candidate assume the position when the mayor steps down," said Borja, adding that he had first-hand experience and knowledge of the "difficulties and challenges" that come with the "starting or transitioning to a new administration."

Recognizing language issues of the bill, Borja said those would be addressed as the Legislature entertains the bill, however he specified "maintaining status quo, however, is not an option."

"I don't think there can be anything more unrepresentative of the people than a law providing for someone to assume a position whom the people have already decided [that] they don't want as their mayor," he said.

MIFF

From Page 1

award.

Two local films also bagged trophies during the awards ceremony as *Oral Cancer Documentary: Chew* and *We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta Story* won the inaugural MIFF's Special Committee Contribution awards.

MIFF's Best Actor went to Ma Yue for *Country Far Away*, while the Best Actress award went to Yan Ni for her performance in *Relocate.*

Best Supporting Actor went to Zhang Han (*Wolf Warriors*), while *Youth*'s Oraphan Saithong was Best Supporting Actress.

Sunshine That Can Move Mountains won Best Cinematography (Wei Shijie) and Best Screenplay (Wang Qiang), while Ha Heon-jin took home the Best Music award for *Merry Christmas Mr. Mo*.

Youth had another award as Elaine Zhong snagged the Best New Artist Award. Other winners were *Yellow* (Special Jury Award), *Six Years, Six Days*' Wu Gang (Special Committee Award for Performing Art Contribution**),** *Confidential Assignment*'s Lim Yoona (Best Popular Asian Actress), Doctor's Mind's Li Muzi (Best Progress Award)**,** and *Relocate*'s Huang Dan, Feng Mengyao, and Liang Shuang (Best Creative Screenplay Award).

Over 500 international stars and filmmakers from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, U.K., and the CNMI took part in the inaugural MIFF, which adopted the theme peace and love.

The films featured in the festival were: *Taxi Driver* (Korea), *Country Far Away* (China), *3904 Feet* (Taiwan),

Yang Caiyu receives her award at the first Marianas International Film Festival during its lavish and star-studded awards night last Friday at the cavernous Imperial Pacific Resort casino.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta Story (CNMI), *Canola* (Korea), *Doctor's Mind* (China), *Six Years, Six Days* (China), *The Prison* (Korea), *Oral Cancer Documentary: Chew* (CNMI), *Relocate* (China), *Merry Christmas Mr. Mio* (Korea), *Sunshine That Can Move A Mountain* (China*), Old Bicycle* (Korea), *The Beautiful Fantastic* (UK), and *Final Redemption* (China)

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, who graced the event with other political CNMI leaders, said that the event was the product of a promise.

"I was at the last film festival in Shanghai and I witnessed the commitment that the announcement of the film festival participants will be in Shanghai, China, but the selection of winners will be held on the island of Saipan and today they made good of that promise and commitment," he said.

"This is an opportunity to share their stories about their people and language that will create everlasting connection between countries and the CNMI. I encourage everyone to continue to come to the island of Saipan and we hope these filmmakers will also go to Rota, Tinian, and on the islands north of Saipan to make movies or films to showcase the CNMI to the rest of the world," he added.

The red carpet and awards night held last Friday at the opulent lobby of the Imperial Pacific Resort was a glimpse of Hollywood brought to Saipan where stars and filmmakers walked the red carpet in support of their films.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Mark Brown said he is pleased with how the almost weeklong First Marianas International Film Festival turned out.

"I could not be happier to be able to bring the very first international film festival on Saipan and we thank the people who participated and who actually came. Many of them have never been here before and they love the island, the people, where they are staying. We heard feedback saying everyone is so nice, and the business people of the island came out in full force and support to help everyone so it's great event," he said.

Hosting the actors and filmmakers were spread out among the different establishments on island, making this event an "island effort."

"We are supporting the islands as we hosted dinner for filmmakers and actors last Thursday at Aqua Resort Club. After the awards, we went go to Fiesta Resort & Spa [Saipan] for a beach dinner and came back here (IPI) for the after-party. It is wonderful, supporting the island and supporting other businesses. We rented buses, cars, and vans to take visitors around to see the beautiful spots of the islands, which made their stay more enjoyable," Brown said.

"Eventually when the (IPI Resort) building is done, we are going to have many more functions like this," Brown added.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said an event of this caliber is significant to the CNMI.

"Filmmakers and celebrities around Asia are here not only to participate in this first ever Marianas Film Festival, but also to see the beautiful islands of the CNMI. I expect that the profile of the Marianas will increase exponentially because of all the international media present here," he said.

"The exposure that the Marianas is going to get from this is going to be tremendous, something for which the value the MVA could not afford. We want to extend our sincere thank you to IPI, the committee that put this together, the people behind the scenes and the people who are actually here to witness this event," he added.

The Marianas Film Festival will be an annual event for the next four years and more international filmmakers and actors are expected to join.

SEN SUN

From Page 1

30, 2018.

With the guilty plea, Sun's jury trial set for January 2018 and the motion hearing were vacated.

After the hearing, Sun was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

In exchange for his guilty plea, the U.S. government will agree to dismiss the remaining two charges and recommend a sentence at the middle or lower end of the applicable sentencing guidelines range.

Under the plea deal, the imposition of probation, any fine, restitution, conditions of probation, and other aspects of the sentence will be at the court's discretion.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said that between Jan. 1, 2017, and Nov. 3, 2017, Sun operated an unregistered, and illegal business operation that arranged travel, medical, and other services to pregnant foreign citizens seeking to give birth in the NMI.

O'Malley said that each of Sun's clients paid upward of $15,000 for this service that includes a full-time assistant or nanny—the 15 alien workers—who would, among other things, cook, clean, and provide basic care for Sun's clients.

Sun employed the 15 workers even if they were not authorized to work here.

O'Malley said the workers lived with Sun's clients in apartments and other accommodations paid for by Sun via his illegal business operation.

The prosecutor said that despite knowing that the workers had entered or remaining unlawfully in the U.S., Sun concealed them from detection. O'Malley said Sun's profited by employing the workers.

The indictment charged Sun with harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering.

When asked by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona if everything that O'Malley stated in court is true, Sun agreed but clarified that he got only a portion of the $15,000 each from the clients as the amount paid for many services.

CW

From Page 1

last Dec. 4, 2017.

Torres is currently at Washington, D.C. along with several members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance, a group of CNMI businesses, to convince the U.S. Congress to amend the law that created the CW-1 program. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recently announced a cut of 3,000 slots from the CW program for fiscal year 2018.

In an earlier statement, Torres said he "looks forward" to the Senate acting on H.J.R. 20-07.

"[Adopting H.J.R. 20-07] shows that our entire government leadership is in support of this because it's the right thing to do for the viability of our economy and for every single person who calls these islands home," Torres had said.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) said the CW program is essential to "continue the economic growth as well as accommodating new and future development in the CNMI."

The program, she said, would also provide the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continued access to nurses, a problem that has been pestering the corporation since the enactment of U.S. Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

P.L. 110-229 federalized the immigration of the CNMI and established the CW-1 program and set the sunset provision of 2019.

Members of the Tinian leadership, led by Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), also voiced their support for the governor as well on behalf of Tinian in a press conference last Dec. 5, 2017.

San Nicolas said that even if all U.S.-eligible workers on Tinian were to be employed, it still would not be enough to satisfy the workforce demands.

The Tinian leadership said there are three large developers interested in setting up establishments on Tinian—Bridge Investment Group USA, Alter City Group, and Tinian Entertainment Corp.

"I think we all agree that one day, we will have the capacity of local, trained, U.S.-eligible workers that will fill all the position required for there to be a viable casino or service-based industry in the Commonwealth, especially on Tinian, but we are not there yet," San Nicolas said, adding that both Tinian and Rota depend on CW-1 workers because both islands are currently on the "verge of development."

"For [the CW-1 program] to expire in 2019 would really mean [both] small and big businesses will not be able to fill these positions that is required for them to continue the services they provide," he added.

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Saipan sees 170-pct. increase in same-sex marriages

The Saipan Mayor's Office issued so far a total of 88 marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2017.

Based on data acquired from the mayor's office, a total of 63 marriage licenses were issued to female couples and a total of 25 marriage licenses were issued to male couples from January to November 2017. That is a more than 170-percent increase from just 30 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in 2016.

Not only was there an increase in the number of marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples, but there were also a variety in the couples who were wed in the CNMI. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Employees of the Docomo Pacific store in Guam mug for the camera.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

iPhoneX arrives at Docomo Pacific

TAMUNING, Guam—The iPhone X is now available at all Docomo Pacific branches in the Marianas.

The iconic smartphone became available at Docomo Pacific stores in Guam and on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last Friday, Dec. 8.

For complete pricing details, visit www.docomopacific.com.

Thomas Higa, Docomo Pacific's chief commercial officer, said the future of the smartphone has arrived at Docomo Pacific with iPhone X.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the 10th anniversary of iPhone with our customers across the Marianas," said Higa.

iPhone X features an all-glass and stainless steel design presented in two color options to choose from—silver and space gray. The 5.8-inch super retina display brings you bolder, brighter, true-to-life blacks and whites. An A11 Bionic chip, augmented reality gaming experiences, and wireless charging are additional features with iPhone X. And Face ID delivers a secure and private new way to unlock, authenticate, and pay.

The new TrueDepth camera that enables Face ID brings portrait mode with portrait lighting to the front camera for beautiful selfies with a depth-of-field effect and enables Animoji, which captures and analyzes over 50 different facial muscle movements to bring emoji to life in a fun new way.

"iPhone X deserves the widest 4G LTE network in the Marianas, and we're excited for our customers to experience all its innovative features," said Jonathan Kriegel, Docomo Pacific president and chief executive officer. "As an Apple authorized service provider, Docomo Pacific can offer confidence and deliver exceptional customer service to the highest standards in the industry along with warranty and authorized repair. With our new increased data caps and 4G LTE throughout the Marianas, customers can enjoy iPhone X and connect wherever they live, work, and play," said

As an Apple authorized service provider, Docomo Pacific has access to comprehensive product, repair, service, troubleshooting, and upgrade information.

What's more, Docomo Pacific customers can protect their iPhone X and other devices with the Device Replacement Program. And for those looking to upgrade, Docomo Pacific offers discounts when you bring in qualified mobile devices as part of a trade-in program.

For more details on pricing, data plans, and offers exclusive to Docomo Pacific customers, visit www.docomopacific.com. For more details on iPhone X, visit www.apple.com. ***(PR)***

ADVERTISING Feature

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 9, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 28, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2017

Opening date: December 11, 2017 **Closing date: December 29, 2017**

Positions:
(1) Mechanic-II (Saipan)
(3) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) BHS Technician-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I (Rota)
(1) CADD Operator (Saipan)
(1) IT Specialist (Saipan)
(1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(3) General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Procurement Clerk (Saipan)
(1) General Maintenance-II (Rota-Seaport)
(1) Staff Attorney (Saipan)

Employment Applications and the Position Descriptions, containing detailed information on qualifications for the above positions, shall be picked up and submitted to one of the following offices from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ChST, except on holidays:

- **Saipan: CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport;**
- **Tinian: CPA Administration Office, West Tinian International Airport;**
- **Rota: CPA Administration Office, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (Rota).**

A printable copy of the application and position descriptions may also be downloaded at www.cpa.gov.mp.

The Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original official recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. The vacancies may require a written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, a 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. **All applications and required documents must be submitted to either one of the CPA Administration Offices on Saipan, Tinian or Rota (as shown above) no later than 5:00 p.m. ChST on Friday, December 29, 2017.**

For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6590 or 6588.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Lawsuit vs Zoning chair Blanco, govt dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied the request of an owner and operator of poker machines to issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction to stop the CNMI government and Commonwealth Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco from enforcing a local law that shuts down poker parlors in residential villages.

In an order last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice the lawsuit filed by Sin Ho Nam, Winnerslife Inc., and Dan Bi Choi LLC because the claims of are not ripe, and therefore the court lacks jurisdiction.

Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiffs can re-file the case in the future.

Manglona said the plaintiffs' claim that the zoning laws deprive them of their constitutionally protected property is unripe.

Therefore, Manglona said, plaintiffs have no likelihood of succeeding on the merits.

Poker machines owner Nam and his company, Winnerslife, and Nam's poker machines operator Dan Bi Choi LLC sued the government and Blanco for violation of due process.

The lawsuit was originally filed in the Superior Court, but the CNMI government and Blanco moved the case to the federal court.

Nam is a Korean national who has held a business certificate in the CNMI since 2008, during which he changed the corporate name of Sin Ho Development Inc. to Winnerslife Inc.

Dan Bin Choi LLC operates a number of poker machines owned by Nam and Winnerslife. Choi LLC was described by plaintiffs' counsel, Robert T. Torres, as manager for Winnerslife.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that enforcing Public Law 18-05, or the Saipan Adult Machine Business Zoning Law of 2013, will deprive each of them of legally protected interests.

They sought an injunction that would prohibit the enforcement of the Saipan zoning law against them until their complaint is settled.

Winnerslife owns 19 poker machines. For each one, Winnerslife pays the Commonwealth an annual licensing fee of $12,000.

Torres argued that the zoning laws deprive his clients of their property—business licenses, licenses to operate gambling machines, and Nam's E-2C visa—without due process of law under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.

Nam, a Korean national, holds an E-2C visa that allows him to invest in the CNMI.

Defendants, through counsel Office of the Attorney General, moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of ripeness and failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

In her ruling, Manglona said that because the zoning law has yet to be enforced, there is no history of prosecution for the court to consider.

For these reasons, the judge said, the court finds that the constitutional prong of the ripeness inquiry is not satisfied.

Separately, Manglona said, plaintiffs have not established that the Department of Finance, which issues the business licenses, has threatened to revoke or is in the process of revoking their business licenses.

The judge said Nam is unable to demonstrate a direct and immediate hardship.

Additionally, Manglona said, because the Zoning Board has not yet made a decision about whether to grant plaintiffs an extension, issuing a preliminary injunction would potentially decide the constitutional issue prematurely or unnecessarily, and would also interfere with an ongoing administrative process.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 12/11/17 Closing Date: 12/29/17

JVA#17-015: **Administrative Assistant/Receptionist**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

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Raffle Draw on January 2, 2018. Some restrictions may apply.

1st Marianas International Film Festival

Zhang Chuxi receiving the award from Man-Tang Guoqiang. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Li Qiankun, Xiao Guiyun, Wu Siyuan, Guo Xiang, Ryoko Nakano, and Ken Xhang. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Imperial Pacific International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, Zhang Hanyu, Lv Liangwei, and Tan Guoqiang. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wu Gang beams with pride with his award. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zhang Han, center, delivers his speech after taking the Best Supporting Actor honor for the movie "Wolf Warriors". CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Country Far Away lead actor Yue Ma, lead actress Jun Xu, and the movie production crew join audience in a group photo during the festival movie screening at the Regal movie theater. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas International Film Festival best actor winner Yue Ma is flanked by fans during the film festival movie screening. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Al Franken's Senate fate and Roy Moore's future

Senator Al Franken was not kicked out of Congress. He decided to resign. That distinction should not be lost on either Congress or the American people, especially if Roy Moore wins next week's Alabama Senate election.

Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, could have remained in Congress to fight the numerous allegations of sexual misconduct against him. He chose not to only after intense partisan pressure: It's one thing to be ostracized within your party; it's another to cost your party its credibility in an intense cultural debate.

If the Democratic Party wants to send the message that it does not tolerate harassment, the theory goes, then it could not accept Franken's continued presence in the Senate. Besides, a Democratic governor will appoint Franken's successor, and in the special election to replace him, Democrats will be favored to win. Principles are so much easier to keep when the politics work out.

That is not the case for Republicans and Moore. The accusations against Moore are both more numerous and more serious than those against Franken, and party leaders initially urged him to withdraw and said they believed the women who accused him. As Election Day approaches, however, the party has resumed its funding of Moore's campaign.

Yet Republicans shouldn't fool themselves: If Moore is elected on Tuesday, their dilemma gets even more fraught. Should he be expelled, as some have suggested? They should think twice before taking such action for misdeeds—alleged or confessed—committed decades before an election and known to the public.

Other than those who supported the Confederacy, the last senator to be expelled was Tennessee's William Blount in 1797. The charge was treason. The bar for expulsion, rightly, is high: The Senate has never expelled a member for acts committed prior to election. Granted, others have resigned rather than risk expulsion, and several have been censured. And many more have faced ethics investigations, which Moore can and should expect if he is elected.

Just because senators were right to pressure Franken to resign, however, does not mean they would be right to expel Moore. Democracy is a messy business in part because people are flawed. The right to judge those flaws, and weigh them against political considerations, belongs to voters.

(c)2017 Bloomberg News

Shaking off the weight of holiday memories

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

Holidays become harder as we age because, unlike Santa, we're not carrying presents. We're carrying pasts.

We carry not only our pasts but also the pasts of others. The pressure, weight and gravity of those no longer in our lives are usually the most difficult to bear.

I miss my father at Christmas even though he never really liked the whole sentimentalized song-and-dance of the season. He hated Bing Crosby and loathed Andy Williams. My father was not big on guys with grins and crew neck sweaters.

Although he liked Nat King Cole, my father couldn't stand "The Christmas Song." He made fun of the earnest lyrics. "If tiny tots have their eyes all aglow you better check the liquor cabinet," said my old man.

In Brooklyn, we didn't have chestnuts roasting on an open fire; we had uncles barbequing sausage in the freezing backyard. They wanted to get away from the aunts and the tots in the kitchen.

More than four decades after her death, I still wish I could comfort my emotionally fragile mother whose anxiety about the possible inadequacies of her own dinners and gifts overshadowed the pleasures offered to her by snow and the ceremonies of the church. Christmas wasn't easy for her.

Most members of my mother's large family, with whom she had a complex, fraught and competitive relationship, still lived in Canada. We didn't get together very often and when we did, we remembered why. Her sisters were ruthless. Cousin was pitted against cousin:

"Gina's in a school play."

"So? Freda wrote the school play."

Between both sides, I have 51 first cousins. I'm not in touch with them. Twenty years ago I felt guilty about it, but not anymore. I gave them, and myself, a break.

While there were some happy memories from the big family days, the thought of imitating them or attempting to recreate them terrifies me. They were part of my life once. But I have now given myself permission to shelve them, along with the over-sized, black-paged photograph albums where Kodak pictures from those holidays are kept, in a quiet room.

Recent wounds are inevitably more painful. My Facebook friend Marsha Wight Wise said, "Last year I had a get-out-of-Christmas-free pass" because her mother had just died. This year, she fears, will be tougher because, "Right after she died, I was allowed to be sad. This year I think I'm expected to be chipper. I have one husband and three teenage boys. I think I have to be the engineer of Christmas and am responsible for their happiness."

But here's the truth: We are allowed to forgo the festivities if we choose and we all have permission to wave goodbye to rituals that no longer meet our needs. I can send you a note with these words on it if you need to carry a reminder to ward off the guilt.

Seeing a need to "do" the holidays in these terms is what makes the holidays seem like doing hard time. The very idea of meeting someone else's expectations or needs leads some of us to proffer false emotions and empty promises while attempting to sustain a sense of composure more brittle than thin ice.

People don't have to be gone from the planet _ or be one of my cousins _ to be off the radar. Divorce, disconnection and distance can feel as irrevocable as death. Ask anybody who has experienced a decisive split with a spouse or sibling. Traces of earlier days are easier to tumble over this time of year.

We retrieve old memories the way we bring out old decorations _ more out of habit than desire. Perhaps we need to choose more carefully.

Nostalgia, like cheap candy, is sticky and often stale.

So why hasn't the blueprint for the season been updated and upgraded? We're taking Lyft, not a sleigh, to Grandma's house. If Grandma's living over the river it's because she's moved back to the city and bought a co-op with her new partner Pat.

Don't sigh over the golden days of yore. (My father would have said "The golden days of your what?")

Leave the past to the past. Celebrate the here and the now. Open the present.

The right not to design a cake

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Say you are a gay couple and are wonderfully excited because the two of you bought a bakery and are making good money at something you enjoy. One day, however, this guy comes in and wants a cake for a rally against gay marriages. He asks for a design celebrating this event, and you say no sir, we won't do that, and suddenly you are in legal trouble.

That would be wrong, right? Yes, because, if you had done that, you would have been party to something that goes deeply against your soul, what you believe, what you have fought for, what you think are your rights. After all, how is it that you can be compelled to fashion a beautiful display for something you consider so ugly? The guy happened to be a racial minority, but that's not why you refused him. In fact, you would happily have sold him any cake in the shop.

But all of that is everyday common sense in tune with American principles, and such arguments have so far failed to work for Jack Phillips in a real-life, non-hypothetical situation.

Philips is a Denver baker. A couple came into his shop one day and wanted him to design a special cake for their upcoming gay marriage. Phillips is a devout Christian who believes same-sex marriage contradicts God's will. He gently told the couple he would make a cake for them for other purposes but would not devote his own artistic creativity for a purpose alien to his religious conscience.

The couple got their cake elsewhere and then knocked on the door of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission that quickly decided Philips had no rights. If you are dealing with a gay couple, it said, you've got to perform as demanded, and, if you don't, you are discriminating and will pay. Lower courts said such actions could hinder gay marriage, and the case is now before the Supreme Court.

We will soon learn whether the promises of the Constitution are still being mowed down as unsightly weeds or if the First Amendment – the promise of the government not interfering with free speech – still has a chance. Whatever ideologically driven legalese says, Philips was discriminating against no one. He was not getting in the way of gay marriage. He was simply saying he would not apply himself personally in expressing sentiments contrary to his idea of what's right.

This seems perfectly in line with the Supreme Court decision favoring gay marriage. In the written opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy said that this newly adjudicated right would pose no harm to third parties, that religions would not be forced to applaud something they were against, for instance.

The point is not that we should somehow forget all the torment gays have had to endure over time or somehow foster that, and Philips was doing no such thing. My own sense is that what we're seeing here is the leftist doctrine that coercion is the only way to the perfect world they imagine. They might want to note that free speech had an awful lot to do with enabling gays to make the progress they have so notably achieved in a more tolerant America.

Another issue here, of course, is religious freedom. Here is something as vital as vital gets, and no, it doesn't mean that anything goes. What it means is that even adherents of a faith that promotes loving one's neighbor should not be forced to abandon it in their daily lives.

LITERARY NOOK

When children die they do not grow

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Today, Dec. 11, 2017, the Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. In honor of ICAN "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons" I would like to share an anti-nuclear weapons poem about Hiroshima written by Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet. It has been recorded and sung by many artists, including Pete Seeger, the Byrds, and Bruce Springsteen.

I Come and Stand at Every Door

By NAZIM HIKMET

I come and stand at every door but none can hear my silent tread
I knock and yet remain unseen for I am dead, for I am dead
I'm only seven, although I died in Hiroshima long ago
I'm seven now as I was then, when children die they do not grow
My hair was scorched by swirling flame,;
my eyes grew dim, my eyes grew blind
Death came and turned my bones to dust
and that was scattered by the wind
I need no fruit, I need no rice, I need no sweets, or even bread
I ask for nothing for myself for I am dead, for I am dead
All that I ask is that for peace you fight today, you fight today
So that the children of this world
may live and grow and laugh and play.

There will be an 85-year-old Japanese survivor of the atomic bombing on stage in Stockholm to receive the award. She was 13 years old when the bomb hit and only a mile or two from ground zero.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If all foreign workers leave…

Radiator Springs is a fictional town in the animated movie *Cars*. It was once a popular stop along Route 66, when tourists were plenty and jobs were abundant. But the town literally vanished when Interstate 40 was constructed. Businesses had to shut down. Residents had to move out.

The CNMI, like Radiator Springs, may go back to its barren state if the CW program ceases. Some may say that is too harsh but think about what could happen. The current population of the CNMI is approximately about 50,000. Some 40 percent of that population is composed of CWs and their families.

Imagine this.

If all foreign workers leave, that would be 40-percent drop in CUC consumers. It could mean a rise in electric bill charges so they can maintain the upkeep of their machines, generators, and plants. That could mean rolling blackouts again and water interruptions.

It could mean a 40-percent drop in gasoline demand. That could mean an increase in gas prices to help continue the import of gasoline to the islands.

It would also mean a 40-percent drop in the number of users of phones, cable, and internet. That could pose an increase in the billing so that they can retain the services that they currently offer.

It would also mean a 40-percent drop in consumers buying store goods. That would also suggest an increase in the prices of goods to pay for the rent and services that proprietors also have to pay.

That would include a 40-percent drop in housing/apartment rentals. Realty businesses would crash. Houses and apartments alike would be empty and abandoned.

Some say they do not need CWs here. They say CWs are taking away the job from the locals. But CW jobs are positions that the local workforce cannot fill because of skills issue (accountants, nurses, engineers, etc.) or menial jobs that they would not be caught working on.

Who do you suppose would fix your cars and houses if most of the mechanics, electricians, plumbers, and construction workers leave? Who would look after your children if workers at the daycare center leaves? Who would cut and fix your hair and do your makeup when the salon workers leave? How about those working in hotels and hospitals?

What about the children of the CWs that represent the islands in international sports and scholastic competition? Read the newspaper, check how many foreign sounding names represent the CNMI in sports and academic meets. That is still CNMI pride right there.

Yes, the CWs need jobs. But truth of the matter is, locals need them as much as the CWs need their jobs. All are interdependent in this matter. This is not a simple *us versus them* problem. Everyone is involved. Everyone is affected.

Tourism will greatly suffer and that's where most of the income of the island comes from. Will those skeptics be just as happy living off on federal grants and food stamps than working alongside other nationalities so that our community can thrive?

Wouldn't you rather flourish and succeed on your own than continue to live on hand-me-downs because the government could no longer support its own? The CNMI is very privileged to be getting federal grants. Yes, privilege and not a right. And that privilege can be taken away at anytime.

As the debate about the ongoing CW cap heats up, we would do well to remember that we are all on an island, under the protection of the United States of America, where it has always been a place of freedom and refuge from poverty and persecution.

Be smart. Help others understand. Support the CW program and sign the ongoing petition.

Sarah Perez
Navy Hill, Saipan

Thanks from Yvonne and her parents

Yvonne, Lillian, and Ambrose Bennett want to send our most sincere thanks to everyone who supported Yvonne and the movie viewings. We owe a special thanks to the governor and first lady, *Marianas Variety*, KKMP, KSPN News, *Tribune*, Kautz Glass, Alex, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Joeten, Kagman High, Velma DLG Ada and to Nola Hix and the Young Professionals, MarPac, Bridge Capital which purchased the entire fourth viewing and they came dressed in their pajamas! The movie had people laughing and crying due to its true and very serious plot—a movie that everyone should see.

Yvonne has been an inspiration to hundreds of our youth and, who knows, she may have caused the birth of more actors in the CNMI that will one day grace the big screen. Inspiration is an "intangible and unquantifiable" quality and Yvonne, my wife, and I are so thankful to the governor and first lady for recognizing the need for Yvonne to be here in person to inspire our youth. Her presence at the movie and her activities with the first lady and the inspirational speech she gave to other youth was intangible and unquantifiable because it was something that money just can't buy as true inspiration and the development a child's aspirations can only be manifested when the opportunity presents itself.

Yvonne still has a ways to go in becoming a genuine Hollywood star and we need more of our CNMI youth to break barriers. So, parents push your children to reach for the moon and the stars and help your children to pursue their dream as there are no limits as to how high they can soar. Just give them a little help and a push to take off and a lot of support.

Anyway, ww can't do enough to show our appreciation and admiration for the people and businesses of the CNMI who all contributed to bring the movie and Yvonne. Also, the public needs to know that you can get a copy of the DVD by contacting me; limited copies available.

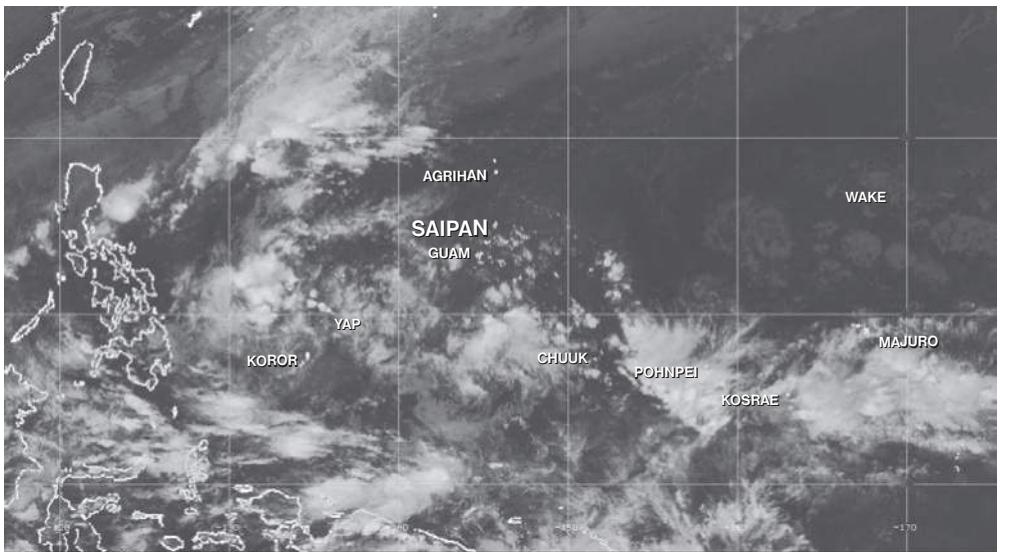
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:07 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No real change made to the forecast. Did update winds with new model data. Saturday night`s surface analysis showed a weak surface trough just to the east of the Marianas. Models show this trough moving west and across the local area today. It is expected to remain weak and will just bring isolated showers and thunderstorms today and tonight. Trade-wind convergence and increasing deep layer moisture will combine to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Monday and Monday night. Lingering moisture will produce isolated thunderstorms on Tuesday. Another area of trade-wind convergence will generate isolated showers and thunderstorms Wednesday night through Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	30° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	66° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 71°
London	Showers	39° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 59°
Miami	Sunny	70° / 55°
New York	Mostly Sunny	44° / 35°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°
Rome	Rain	59° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 38°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 14°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:10 AM	LOW TIDE	1.40
7:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.30
2:49 PM	LOW TIDE	1.94
9:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.67

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	12:28 am	1:01 pm	-
Tuesday	1:20 am	1:42 pm	-
Wednesday	2:10 am	2:22 pm	-
Thursday	2:59 am	3:02 pm	-
Friday	3:48 am	3:42 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Latte Built Toys for Tots Charity

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Matua Riders Motorcycle Club pulls into the Latte Built Gym parking area in time for the first Latte Built Toys for Tots Charity Event yesterday.

The 4x4 Holics pulls into the Latte Built Gym parking area in time for the first Latte Built Toys for Tots Charity Event yesterday.

A Matua Rider Motorcycle Club member pours his bag of gifts into the Toys for Tots charity box during the first Latte Built Toys for Tots Charity Event yesterday.

4x4 Holics club members pour their bag of gifts into the Toys for Tots charity box during the first Latte Built Toys for Tots Charity Event yesterday.

The Toys for Tots charity box is filled to the brim with toys donated by the Matua Riders Motorcycle Club members and the 4x4 Holics during the first Latte Built Toy for Tots charity event yesterday.

A pickup truck is filled with toys during the Latte Built's first Toys for Tots charity event yesterday.

The Matua Riders Motorcycle Club, the 4x4 Holics, and the Latte Built staff pose for a photo by the pickup truck of toys donated during the first Latte Built Toys for Tots charity event yesterday.

4x4 Holics members pour their bag of gifts into the Toys for Tots charity box during the first Latte Built Toys for Tots charity event yesterday.

Latte Built Gym owner Derrick Cutting gives a short opening message during the first Latte Built Toys for Tots charity event yesterday.

Business

A stronger global economy is helping boost the US job market

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. job market is benefiting from an unlikely source: Other countries.

The global economy is showing renewed strength, with Europe, Japan and many developing nations growing in tandem for the first time in a decade. The brightening international picture is encouraging more hiring in the United States—even among manufacturers, which have been hurt in the past by global competition.

"We're seeing demand coming from where we haven't seen it in a long, long time," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West. "We're riding the wave of that added global growth."

In November, U.S. employers added a substantial 228,000 jobs, the Labor Department said Friday. It was the 86th straight month of gains, the longest on record, and a sign of the job market's enduring strength in the economy's ninth year of expansion. The unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent, a 17-year low.

Friday's jobs report coincided with other signs that the U.S. economy remains on firm footing. In the past six months, economic growth has exceeded an annual rate of 3 percent, the first time that's happened since 2014. Consumer confidence has reached its highest level since 2000.

Europe's economy is poised to grow at the fastest pace in a decade, and its unemployment rate has reached its lowest level in nearly nine years. Japan's economy expanded in the fall for the seventh straight quarter, its longest period of growth since 2001. Such developing economies as China and India are growing steadily.

What We Offer...
Competitive Pay & Benefits Package
401K
Mentor & Short Service Employee Program
Classroom & Onsite Training Program
Housing Provided & Per Diem

AP

In this Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017, photo, a recruiter from a driller in the shale gas industry, left, speaks with an attendee at a job fair in Cheswick, Pa.

The overall global economy is expanding at its fastest pace in seven years, according to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, a Paris-based think tank. It should fare slightly better in 2018, the OECD says.

Stronger economies overseas have helped boost profits at U.S. multinational corporations, a key reason why the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has climbed 18 percent this year. U.S. companies in the S&P index derive about half their revenue from abroad.

Exports contributed 0.43 percentage point to economic growth in the July-September quarter, the most in nearly four years. Factories are making more goods for overseas markets, including agricultural and mining equipment. Exports of aircraft engines are up 13 percent, overseas shipments of semiconductors up 8 percent.

Manufacturers have stepped up hiring. In November, they added 31,000 jobs. Over the past year, they've added 189,000.

"More than anything, a marked improvement in the global economy is what is driving a better US manufacturing picture," said Cliff Waldman, chief economist at MAPI Foundation, a manufacturing research group.

Still, solid hiring and a low unemployment rate have yet to accelerate wages, which rose 2.5 percent in November compared with a year earlier. The last time unemployment was this low, average wages were growing at a 4 percent annual rate.

The November jobs data make it a near-certainty that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates for the third time this year when it meets next week, economists said.

Hiring last month went well beyond manufacturing. Construction firms added 24,000 jobs. Retailers added nearly 19,000 positions, a sign that physical stores are hiring for the holiday shopping season even in the face of brutal competition from e-commerce companies.

Transportation and warehousing companies, which are benefiting from the e-commerce boom, added 10,500.

Hiring has slowed slightly since last year, which is typical when unemployment falls to low levels. Employers have added an average of 174,000 a month this year, a bit below last year's monthly average of 187,000.

There are also welcome signs that the recovery is finally benefiting workers who were enjoying little benefit in earlier stages of the economic rebound, said Jed Kolko, chief economist at job listing website Indeed.

Workers with just a high school diploma are much more likely to have jobs than they were a year ago. And employees in some of the lower-paying industries are receiving the biggest pay gains: Average hourly pay has risen a healthy 3.8 percent for workers in a category that includes hotel and restaurant employees.

"In a tight labor market, employers may look to a wider set of candidates than they would when unemployment was higher," Kolko said.

Brian Ernest, who owns a small home renovation and contracting firm in Edgewater, Maryland, just hired a project manager to help him keep up with his fast-growing business. He advertises through the Thumbtack website and relies on word of mouth among Realtors.

When he has advertised jobs this year, he hasn't found many takers, given the low unemployment rate. Rather than raise base pay, he started providing profit-sharing.

Trump signs 2-week spending bill to avoid shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Friday signed a spending bill to avoid a government shutdown and keep the federal government running through Dec. 22.

The president signed the two-week spending measure in private at the White House after the House and Senate acted to prevent a government shutdown this weekend. The funding reprieve comes as the White House and congressional leaders are negotiating a longer-term agreement, building off a Thursday meeting involving Trump and congressional leaders.

The White House and lawmakers said the bill will give them more time to negotiate several end-of-the-year agenda items, including the budget, a children's health program and hurricane aid. Administration and congressional aides were continuing the talks on Friday.

"We hope that we're going to make some great progress for our country. I think that will happen," Trump said Thursday in the Oval Office. Added Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York: "Funding the government is extremely important, helping our soldiers is very important and helping average citizens is very important. So we're here in the spirit of: Let's get it done."

The two-week measure funds government agencies from the Defense Department to the IRS. It also makes money available to several states running out of funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program. The popular health care program provides medical care to more than 8 million children.

The White House and lawmakers have been discussing relief from a budget freeze on the Pentagon and domestic agencies, extending the children's health program and providing more disaster aid to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, Texas and Florida.

Negotiators are also seeking ways of addressing protections for immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children.

Republican leaders have said they agree with the need to address immigration, including the almost 1 million immigrants given protections by former President Barack Obama. Trump has sought stronger border security and immigration enforcement as part of the talks and the White House said Thursday that "negotiations on immigration should be held separately on a different track" to avoid slowing down funding increases for the Pentagon.

Key Brexit advocate says voters can change UK deal with EU

LONDON (AP)—British voters will be able to change the final Brexit agreement with the European Union if they aren't happy with what the British government delivers, a key Brexit supporter claimed Saturday.

British Environment Secretary Michael Gove's comments came after Prime Minister Theresa May compromised on issues such as Britain's financial obligation to the bloc, the Northern Ireland border and the jurisdiction of European courts in order to reach a preliminary agreement on divorce terms with the EU.

The EU had demanded an agreement on these issues before it would allow the talks to move on to all-important questions of trade and the future relationship between the two sides.

"The British people will be in control," Gove wrote in Saturday's edition of the Daily Telegraph. "By the time of the next election, EU law and any new treaty with the EU will cease to have primacy or direct effect in UK law. If the British people dislike the arrangement that we have negotiated with the EU, the agreement will allow a future government to diverge."

Britain's next general election is scheduled for 2022, three years after the U.K. is set to leave the EU in 2019. Many analysts expect elections to be called earlier because May leads a minority government and is struggling to maintain control of a fractious cabinet.

While some commentators said Gove was simply stating the obvious—that voters can replace their leaders if they are unhappy with their performance—the article underscores the divisions within British society over what Brexit should look like.

Gove and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson have advocated a harder form of Brexit in which Britain reasserts its control over regulations, ends the free movement of labor and stops paying into the EU budget. Other members of May's Cabinet, including Treasury chief Phillip Hammond and Home Secretary Amber Rudd are believed to be pushing to keep some links with the EU to ensure that Britain retains tariff-free access to the EU's large common market.

May's cabinet to meet next week to discuss for the first time what the "end state" relationship between Britain and the EU will look like.

Nation

‘Firefighting at Christmas’ may become normal

AP
Firefighters monitor the Thomas fire as it burns through Los Padres National Forest near Ojai, Calif., on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017.

FALLBROOK, Calif. (AP)—A week of destructive fires in Southern California is ending but danger still looms.

Well into what’s considered the wet season, there’s been nary a drop of rain. That’s good for sun-seeking tourists, but could spell more disaster for a region that emerged this spring from a yearslong drought and now has firefighters on edge because of parched conditions and no end in sight to the typical fire season.

“This is the new normal,” Gov. Jerry Brown warned Saturday after surveying damage from the deadly Ventura County fire that has caused the most destruction and continued burning out of control. “We’re about ready to have firefighting at Christmas. This is very odd and unusual.”

Even as firefighters made progress containing six major wildfires from Santa Barbara to San Diego County and most evacuees were allowed to return home, predicted gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) through Sunday posed a threat of flaring up existing blazes or spreading new ones. High fire risk is expected to last into January and the governor and experts said climate change is making it a year-round threat.

Overall, the fires have destroyed nearly 800 homes and other buildings, killed dozens of horses and forced more than 200,000 people to flee flames that have burned over 270 square miles (700 square kilometers) since Monday. One death, so far, a 70-year-old woman who crashed her car on an evacuation route, is attributed to the fire in Santa Paula, a small city next to Ventura where the fire began.

The Ventura blaze continued to burn into rugged mountains in the Los Padres National Forest near the little town of Ojai and toward a preserve established for endangered California condors. While many evacuation orders were lifted, new ones were established as the fire grew.

Brown said he had witnessed the “vagaries of the wind” that had destroyed some houses and left others standing and expressed concern for those who lost everything.

“What can you say?” he asked. “When you lose your house and your belongings and people lose their animals, it is a horror and it’s a horror we want to minimize.”

Firefighters were on high alert for dangerous fire potential even before the first blazes broke out. On Dec. 1, they began planning for extreme winds forecast in the week ahead.

Aided by scandal, Dems fighting math and history in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Renegade Republican Roy Moore may be plagued by scandal, but scandal alone will not convince the voters of 44th Place North to show up for Democrat Doug Jones.

In a state where Democrats are used to losing, malaise hangs over this quiet African-American neighborhood in suburban Birmingham, even three days before Alabama’s high-profile Senate contest. It is supposed to be a Democratic stronghold, yet the Jones campaign signs are hard to find.

“A lot of people don’t vote because they think their vote don’t count,” Ebonique Jiles, 27, said after promising a Jones volunteer she would support the Democrat in Tuesday’s election. “I’ll vote regardless of whether he wins or loses.”

With history and math working against them in deep-red Alabama, Democrats fought Saturday to energize a winning coalition of African-Americans and moderate Republicans—a delicate balancing act on full display as Jones and his network of volunteers canvassed the state. Moore, by contrast, held no public events, a familiar strategy as he bets big that the state’s strong Republican leanings will carry him to the Senate, despite his shortcomings.

During an appearance near the staging ground for Selma’s landmark “Bloody Sunday” civil rights march, Jones declared that Alabama has an opportunity to go “forward and not backward.”

“This campaign has the wind at its back because we are bringing people together from all across this state,” Jones said after a meeting at Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. “The other side is trying to divide us more than they bring people together.”

Trump hails civil rights heroes; protesters pan his record

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—President Donald Trump paid tribute Saturday to the leaders and foot soldiers of the civil rights movement whose sacrifices help make the United States a fairer and more just country, though protests surrounding his visit to Mississippi laid bare the stark divisions among Americans about his commitment to that legacy.

As Trump gazed at an exhibit on Freedom Riders at the new Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, demonstrators near the site held up signs that said “Make America Civil Again” and “Lock Him Up.” Some shouted “No Trump, no hate, no KKK in the USA.”

Trump spent about 30 minutes at the museums, gave a 10-minute speech to select guests inside and then flew back to his Florida estate, skipping the public schedule of the dedication ceremony held outside on a chilly day. He spent more time getting to Jackson than he did on the ground.

Trump’s remarks steered clear of addressing the anger that his participation had sparked leading up to the dedication. In a deliberate voice and rarely diverting from his prepared words, the president sought to honor the famous and the anonymous for their efforts on behalf of freedom for all.

“The civil rights museum records the oppression, cruelty and injustice inflicted on the African-American community, the fight to bring down Jim Crow and end segregation, to gain the right to vote and to achieve the sacred birthright of equality. And it’s big stuff. That’s big stuff,” he said.

“Those are very big phrases, very big words. Here we memorialize the brave men and women who struggled to sacrifice and sacrifice so much so that others might live in freedom,” he said.

The national president of the NAACP and the mayor of Mississippi’s capital city said they kept their distance from Trump because of his “pompous disregard” for the values embodied by the civil rights movement.

Derrick Johnson, head of the nation’s oldest civil rights organization, and Mayor Chokwe Lumumba said at a news conference that they looked forward to a “grander opening” of the museum that they can attend.

Johnson, a Mississippian, charged that Trump opposes labor rights, education, health care and voting rights for all Americans.

“We will never cede the stage to an individual who will fight against us,” Johnson said. “We will not allow the history of those who sacrificed to be tarnished for political expediency.”

Asia

PH wants money back from Sanofi for dengue vaccine

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government will demand a refund of 3.5 billion pesos ($69.5 million) from vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur and look at possible legal action after a study showed the vaccine used in a dengue immunization program could expose some people to severe illness, the health chief said Friday.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the government will also seek compensation for treatment of children who may develop severe dengue. No deaths have been confirmed, but at least one immunized child has developed dengue.

The Department of Health put on hold its dengue immunization drive, which was launched last year and is the world's first such public program, after France-based Sanofi Pasteur released the study last week.

A small group of protesters called on the government to take action against the health secretaries who supported the vaccination program under the previous and current administrations in a rally at the Department of Health in Manila. The protesters brought a 12-year-old boy who they said received the dengue vaccine.

Former Health Secretary Janette Garin told ABS-CBN TV that there was no warning given by Sanofi in her time that the dengue vaccine Dengvaxia carried a risk for those who have not been infected. She said she was ready to face a Senate investigation next week.

AP

Eric John Vital, 12, holds his vaccination record as he joins other protesters at a rally outside the Department of Health to demand accountability to government officials involved in the controversial immunization of the anti-dengue vaccine Dengvaxia to more than 700,000 Filipino children Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

More than 730,000 public school children aged 9 and above in three Philippine regions with high rates of dengue fever have received at least the first dose of Dengvaxia, the first licensed dengue vaccine.

Sanofi Pasteur said its long-term follow-up study of the vaccine showed sustained benefits for up to six years for those who had a previous dengue infection, but that people who never had dengue had an increased risk of a severe case and hospitalization from the third year after immunization.

"We will demand the refund of the 3 billion paid for the Dengvaxia and that Sanofi set up an indemnification fund to cover the hospitalization and medical treatment for all children who might have severe dengue," Duque said at a news conference, adding that a government legal team will also look into Sanofi's accountability.

The pharmaceutical giant initially claimed that the vaccine was safe and effective for all people aged 9 to 45, but later acknowledged that it "is not recommended for people who have had no prior dengue infection" due to the risk of a severe case, Duque said.

At least one 12-year-old from northern Tarlac province developed dengue after being immunized but recovered, Duque said, although he did not say if Dengvaxia caused the infection.

Another possible dengue case was being investigated, he said.

PH military wants martial law extended in south

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military and police have asked the president to extend martial law he declared in the country's south by a year because of continuing threats from pro-Islamic State group militants and communist guerrillas, officials said Friday.

Interior Undersecretary Catalino Cuy said the national police want President Rodrigo Duterte to extend martial law, which expires on Dec. 31, to allow them to continue offensives against Muslim militants who eluded capture during a five-month siege of southern Marawi city and against other extremist groups.

Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military has made a similar recommendation to Duterte so it can press efforts against Muslim extremists and communist New People's Army guerrillas, whose attacks have affected businesses and the economy.

Duterte imposed martial law in May to deal with the Marawi siege, which troops quelled in October. Left-wing groups have protested martial law because of human rights concerns, but the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

"We have not contained all the threat groups," Cuy said by telephone. "They're still there."

Martial law will help the government and troops rebuild Marawi faster, he said.

The Marawi siege left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead, including more than 900 Filipino and foreign militants. The violence displaced about half a million people and turned mosque-studded Marawi's central business and residential districts into a smoldering war zone.

The militant uprising that began on May 23 prompted Duterte to declare martial law across the southern Mindanao region and reinforced fears that the Islamic State group was taking steps to gain a foothold in Asia and elsewhere as it faced major battle setbacks in Syria and Iraq.

Although several militant leaders were killed in the intense fighting in Marawi, some gunmen and commanders managed to escape, Padilla said.

"Although they have significantly been degraded in terms of capability and manpower, those who survived that siege still remain at large and are attempting to recover by recrui ting other members of the society, particularly the vulnerable sector of our population," Padilla told reporters. "We still need the cover of martial law to address that bigger threat that they pose in other areas."

Communist guerrilla attacks have increased considerably, with the estimated damage to government and business, including burned construction equipment, rising by 2,000 percent to about 2.4 billion pesos ($47 million) this year, Padilla said.

Duterte has called off peace talks with the Maoist rebels to protest their deadly attacks on government forces and moved to designate them as terrorists under the law. He indicated, however, that he is still open to a resumption of the talks if the communist insurgents stop their assaults. "Let's give time for a cooling off with the Communist Party of the Philippines," Duterte said in a speech on Friday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Senior UN official leaves N. Korea after rare visit

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—A senior U.N. official left Pyongyang on Saturday after four days of talks with the North Korean Foreign Ministry. "I have to brief the secretary general first" was all U.N. Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman said when asked for details of his trip. Feltman met North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho on Thursday and also had two sessions of talks with Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Guk. Feltman, the highest-ranking American in the U.N. secretariat, is the first person in that post to visit North Korea since February 2010. Though Feltman previously worked for the State Department, he is not representing the U.S. government. North Korea regularly accuses the U.N. of bias, criticizing the U.N. sanctions resolutions that condemn Pyongyang's missile launches and nuclear tests. Pyongyang says those resolutions are illegal, insisting it has the sovereign right to pursue its missile and nuclear programs because of what it sees as a serious threat from the United States. North Korea has also recently expressed concern about the latest sanctions affecting the ability of U.N. aid agencies to help the needy in North Korea.

India police: Murder of Muslim was apparent religious attack

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in western India have arrested a Hindu man they say brutally killed a Muslim laborer in an apparent religious attack. The Press Trust of India news agency reported late Thursday that the arrest came after the suspect shared a grisly video of the laborer, Mohammad Afrazul, being hacked to death and then set on fire. TV reports aired video of the victim lying on the ground while a man in the foreground raves against Muslims. The killing took place in the western state of Rajasthan on Wednesday. Police say the accused, Shambu Lal Raigar, raged against intermarriages of Hindu women and Muslim men. It wasn't clear why Afrazul was singled out. The killing is the most recent in a spate of attacks on minority groups, especially Muslims, since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party swept national elections in 2014. Most of the violence against Muslims has involved fringe Hindu vigilante groups that have become active in small towns and cities across India.

US Navy prepares to comb sea bed for crashed plane, sailors

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. Navy said it will deploy deep water salvage experts to search for a transport aircraft that crashed in the western Pacific last month, killing three sailors. The C-2A "Greyhound" aircraft was traveling to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan when it crashed the day before Thanksgiving in the Philippine Sea. Eight people were rescued. The plane's last position on the surface is known but the depth of the water exceeds 16,000 feet (4,875 meters), the Navy said in a statement Saturday. A salvage team will depart Japan aboard a contracted salvage vessel in the coming days to deploy a pinger locator to try to pick up the aircraft's emergency location signal. If successful, the Navy said that additional assets will be deployed to recover the aircraft and the fallen sailors. The sailors were identified as Lt. Steven Combs Jr. and Airman Apprentice Bryan Grosso of Florida and Airman Matthew Chialastri of Louisiana. One of Combs' sisters, Elizabeth Combs, said that her brother was piloting the aircraft and managed to settle it in the sea, allowing for the rescue of the eight people. The Navy called Combs' actions "heroic." The cause of the crash is under investigation.

World

PM announces on state TV Iraq's war against IS has ended

BAGHDAD (AP)—After more than three years of combat operations, Iraq announced Saturday that the fight against the Islamic State group is over after the country's security forces drove the extremists from all of the territory they once held. Iraqi and American officials warned, however, that key challenges remain despite the military victory.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi formally announced the victory in an address to the nation aired on Iraqi state television Saturday evening.

"Honorable Iraqis, your land has been completely liberated," he said. "The liberation dream has become a reality. We achieved victory in difficult circumstances and with God's help, the steadfastness of our people and the bravery of our heroic forces we prevailed."

"The flag of Iraq is flying high today over all Iraqi territory and at the farthest point on the border," he added, standing before the most senior members of Iraq's security forces.

Following al-Abadi's remarks, his office declared a public holiday Sunday in celebration of the victory, according to an official statement from the prime minister's office.

Iraqi forces mopped up the last pockets of IS fighters from Iraq's western deserts Saturday, securing the country's border with Syria, a step that marked the end of combat operations against the extremists.

"All Iraqi lands are liberated from terrorist Daesh gangs and our forces completely control the international Iraqi-Syrian border," said Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Rasheed Yar Allah, a senior Iraqi military commander, in a statement Saturday afternoon.

The U.S. applauded the prime minister's announcement.

The U.S. offers "sincere congratulations to the Iraqi people and to the brave Iraqi Security Forces, many of whom lost their lives heroically fighting ISIS," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a written statement, using an alternative acronym for IS.

"Our coalition will continue to stand with Iraq to support its security forces, economy and stabilization to help ensure that ISIS can never against threaten Iraq's people or use its territory as a haven," said Brett McGurk, U.S. special presidential envoy to the anti-IS coalition, in a statement posted to his official Twitter account.

"We mark today's historic victory mindful of the work that remains," he added.

Iraq's government remains faced with significant security threats, an economic crisis and the enormous task of rebuilding swaths of territory decimated by the IS fight.

IS fighters overran nearly a third of Iraqi territory, including Mosul, the country's second largest city and Tikrit, the capital of Iraq's central Salahuddin province in the summer of 2014. The following year, IS fighters also overran Anbar's provincial capital of Ramadi.

Over the past 3 ½ half years, Iraqi ground forces closely backed by the U.S.-led coalition and mostly Shiite paramilitary forces backed by Iran have slowly retaken all of that territory.

The pace of the anti-IS operation accelerated last year as coalition-backed Iraqi ground forces prepared for the assault on Mosul that was formally launched in October 2016.

After more than nine months of mostly grueling urban combat, Al-Abadi declared victory over IS in Mosul in July.

In the months that followed Iraqi forces retook a handful of other IS held towns including Tal Afar in August, Hawija in September and Qaim in October. In November, Iraqi forces retook the last Iraqi town held by IS—Rawah, near the border with Syria.

AP
Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi gestures, during a press conference, in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran says 'good relations' possible if Saudis change

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—President Hassan Rouhani says Iran is ready to restore ties with Saudi Arabia if it stops bombing Yemen and cuts its alleged ties with Israel. In a speech broadcast Sunday, Rouhani said the regional rivals could have "good relations" if the Saudis end their "false friendship" with Israel and halt the "inhuman bombardment" of Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iranian-allied rebels known as Houthis. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian demonstrators attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in response to the Saudi execution of a prominent Shiite dissident cleric. Tensions spiked again last month after the Houthis fired a ballistic missile that was intercepted near Riyadh. Saudi Arabia does not recognize Israel, but the two countries have a shared interest in countering Iran.

Israeli strikes kill 2 Hamas men after Gaza rocket attack

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli airstrikes killed two Hamas members early Saturday following a rocket attack on Israel, in the latest fallout from President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital—a development that has roiled the region and the larger Muslim world. The Israeli military said it targeted four Hamas facilities in response to rockets fired the previous night, including one that landed in the town of Sderot without causing casualties or major damage. The military said it struck warehouses and weapons manufacturing sites, after which Hamas said it had recovered the bodies of two of its men. Israel considers Hamas responsible for all rocket fire emanating from Gaza, which is home to other armed groups. Some residents of Sderot and other border towns spent the night in shelters, fearful of a resumption of rocket attacks from Gaza that have led to three Israel-Hamas wars over the past decade. Protests and demonstrations continued across the West Bank and Gaza on Saturday on the third and final so-called Palestinian "day of rage" following Trump's announcement. The military said there were clashes in some 20 locations. In Bethlehem, Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli troops, who responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades. The Israeli military said some 600 Palestinians were throwing firebombs and rolling burning tires toward Israeli forces. It said it dispersed the crowds and arrested six rioters.

Arab ministers demand reversal of Trump Jerusalem decision

CAIRO (AP)—Arab foreign ministers on Sunday demanded that the United States rescind President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, calling it a "grave" development that puts Washington on the same side as "occupation" and the violation of international law.

In a resolution long on rhetoric but short on concrete actions, the ministers also called for the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning Trump's decision, but acknowledged that Washington would most likely veto it.

If the U.S. vetoes the resolution, the Arabs would seek a similar resolution in the U.N. General Assembly, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki told a pre-dawn news conference in Cairo.

A two-page resolution adopted by the emergency meeting, which began Saturday night, did not include any punitive actions against the United States, like a call for a boycott of American products or suspending or downgrading ties with Washington.

It also appeared to fall short of matching the anger felt by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which have seen three days of violent protests against Trump's decision.

"We have taken a political decision not meant to reflect (what is going on in) the streets. Political work is responsible work," said Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul-Gheit. "Jerusalem has been occupied for 50 years. This is an extended battle, a battle that will be escalated," he told the news conference.

The resolution said the ministers would meet again within a month and held out the possibility that an emergency Arab summit would be held in Jordan to discuss Jerusalem.

Trump's Dec. 6 announcement on Jerusalem, and his intention to move the U.S. Embassy there, triggered denunciations from around the world, with even close allies suggesting he had needlessly stirred more conflict in an already volatile region. Jerusalem's status lies at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Trump's move was widely perceived as siding with Israel. Even small crises over Jerusalem's status and that of the holy sites in its ancient Old City have sparked deadly bloodshed in the past.

Arab diplomats said some Arab League members had wanted a more hard-line resolution, including punitive measures against countries that follow the U.S. example and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

That was considered too radical by moderate Arab nations and eventually dropped, according to the diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

But Al-Maliki, the Palestinian Foreign Minister, sought to play down differences, saying the meeting produced "complete" unity among Arab nations.

"There were differences in assessment when we moved to specifying measures," he said. "But in the end we agreed on gradually escalating measures."

Focus

US wants world to isolate N. Korea, so what's that mean?

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— When President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador recently urged the world to sever diplomatic ties with North Korea, she was sketchy on the details: Should all embassies close? How about those providing the U.S. intelligence from the largely inscrutable country? And what of Sweden, which helps with imprisoned Americans?

Nikki Haley's recent call to action underscores the challenge for the United States as it tries to advance a nonmilitary strategy for resolving the nuclear standoff with North Korea. Isolating the reclusive, totalitarian state has been a central component of the U.S. plan, even though Washington says it remains open to talks.

Like international economic penalties, the Trump administration believes the diplomatic isolation serves two purposes.

It's designed to punish North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for developing an atomic arsenal of bombs and intercontinental missiles that potentially could deliver nuclear warheads anywhere in the United States. U.S. officials also contend that freezing out North Korea could drive Kim's government to seek negotiations.

"We do know they care a lot about their international reputation," said Mark Tokola, a former No. 2 at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea.

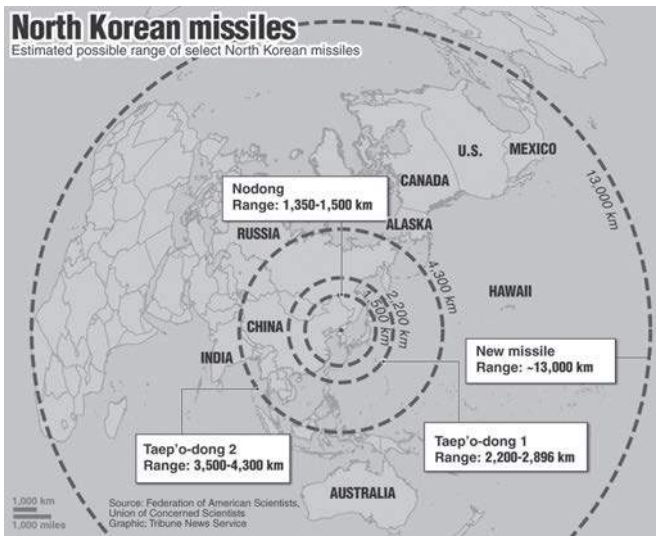
Trump's team has chalked up some successes in narrowing the North's diplomatic reach. Mexico, Peru, Italy, Spain, and Kuwait have expelled North Korean ambassadors from their countries. Haley said Portugal and the United Arab Emirates have suspended diplomatic relations. Others have cut trade and security ties.

But North Korea isn't and won't be completely isolated.

Last month, China, whose once-close relationship with North Korea has been strained by its adoption of tough U.N. sanctions, sent its highest level envoy to Pyongyang in two years. North Korea also recently welcomed a Russian parliamentary delegation, in a sign of increasing contacts between the former Cold War partners. And the North just hosted the most senior U.N. official to visit in years: Jeffrey Feltman, the undersecretary-general for political affairs.

Even before he departed, experts played down expectations that Feltman, formerly a senior American diplomat, could offer a breakthrough as the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons threatens to spiral into war. Feltman carried no message from Washington, State Department spokesman Heather Nauert said.

Yet Feltman's visit, which included an audience with Kim's foreign minister, added to questions about how effectively the U.S. can isolate North Korea. Feltman left Pyongyang on Saturday after four days of talks with the North Korean Foreign Ministry. "I have to brief the secretary-general first," he said when asked for details of his trip.



Also unresolved is whether Trump and his top advisers have a game plan for the second half of a strategy they've called "maximum pressure and engagement." If North Korea signals a willingness to negotiate, now that Kim has declared that he has "realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force," how will the U.S. respond?

"This is probably as good a time as any to try to pivot to engagement," said Suzanne DiMaggio at the New America think tank, who has been involved in several rounds of unofficial talks with North Korean officials. She said the administration has focused almost completely on pressure.

Kim's declaration followed North Korea's test last month of its most powerful intercontinental missile yet, which led Haley, at an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting, to speak of a world "closer to war." At the same time, she pushed for others to cut trade and diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

U.S. officials say doing so would stop North Korea from abusing diplomatic privileges that allow it to raise revenues or conduct illegal business in support of its nuclear and missile programs. It's also intended to exploit North Korean sensitivity to its international standing.

But the U.S. has given mixed messages on what form concretely the isolation should take.

Haley called all governments to sever ties. Other U.S. officials say the emphasis is on getting North Korean diplomats expelled from overseas postings, not on closing foreign embassies in Pyongyang. To date, no embassies have shut down in the North Korean capital as a result of the U.S. campaign.

According to research by the Washington-based East-West Center and the National Committee on North Korea, North Korea maintains diplomatic relations with 167 countries. It has embassies in 47 foreign capitals. Twenty-four countries have embassies in Pyongyang, and those include American rivals and friends.

"If the U.S. is really serious about depriving North Korea of diplomatic relations, it must start with its own closest ally, Great Britain," said Artyom Lukin, a North Korea expert at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia.

Since the U.S. has no diplomatic presence of its own in North Korea—the two sides remain technically in a state of war—it relies to some extent on Britain, Germany and other partners to stay abreast of what's happening there. Most critically, it needs Sweden, its protecting power, to assist three currently detained Americans in North Korea, on the rare occasions when Kim's government allows consular access.

Any isolation campaign will have only marginal diplomatic and economic effect without the participation of North Korea's most powerful partners, China and Russia. Both support more dialogue with the North, not more diplomatic sanctions.

Even if only smaller countries follow America's advice, the U.S. could lose potential go-betweens, such as Vietnam and Mongolia, which have constructive relations with the U.S. and North Korea.

"If they left, I would be worried I was losing a source of information and a more neutral voice that the North Koreans might actually listen to," said Frank Jannuzi, a former Senate staff specialist on Asia.

AP
Military personnel gather at Kim Il Sung Square on Friday Dec. 1, 2017, in Pyongyang, North Korea. Tens of thousands of North Koreans attended a rally Friday in Pyongyang's central Kim Il Sung Square to make a show of support for the country's latest missile test.

Health & Fitness

Cheap workout trends to try

By TRAE BODGE
GOBANKINGRATES.COM/TNS

Workout trends come and go, which keeps things interesting and prevents burnout. These days, CrossFit and SoulCycle are all the rage. But unfortunately for your wallet, with an average monthly membership of $125 for CrossFit and about $34 per class at Soul Cycle, hopping on today's fitness trends can really cost you.

But that doesn't mean you have to dust off your Tae Bo video cassette to get your sweat on. Many of today's workout trends are inexpensive or even free.

QUICK WORKOUTS

It's often hard to find time to get to the gym for a workout, so busy people are turning to efficient workouts that take very little time. These workouts don't require a gym membership and can be done at home or at the office.

There are many quick workout programs available online. One such program is JobuFIT, an online subscription-based program modeled after daily workouts of busy professionals in Japan. The JobuFIT workouts focus on healthy alignment and offer a convenient way to get in a workout at your office, home or hotel room in fewer than 10 minutes.

Subscriptions are $65 per quarter and new workouts are posted regularly so you don't get bored. You will also receive reminders so you don't slack off.

If you like some 'namaste' each day, fitness expert Nadia Murdock of NadiaMurdockFit.com recommended YogaWorks, which offers online workouts as short as five minutes. Subscriptions cost $15 per month with a 14-day free trial.

Murdock also recommended BeachBody.com, which offers a 10-minute trainer program, among many other workout programs. Beach Body charges $9.99 per month for six months, including a 30-day money-back guarantee.

"These streaming workouts allow people to work out in a short amount of time anywhere at any time," she said. "Today, workouts are about being effective and time-efficient, which often means squeezing it in when you can. That's why streaming workouts are ideal."

TABATA

A popular form of the quick workout is Tabata, a high-intensity interval training workout. Tabata was created by Japanese scientist Izumi Tabata, and the most basic form involves eight rounds of 20 seconds of intense work, followed by 10 seconds of rest, according to Active.com.

Each cycle lasts four minutes, and the exercises are typically squats, jumps, lunges, burpees, push-ups and the like. Some involve dumbbells, kettlebells and other equipment, while others just use your body weight.

You can create your own Tabata workouts with a stopwatch. But if you need motivation or just want someone else to run the stopwatch, there are numerous free Tabata workouts on YouTube.

"The Body Project" channel on YouTube has an excellent free Tabata workout that requires no equipment. If you like to lift heavy things, try the free "BodyFit by Amy" channel on YouTube. Fitness trainer Amy has several Tabata workouts sprinkled into her dumbbell and kettlebell programs.

TRAMPOLINES

If you have young children, you have probably encountered a trampoline in a friend's backyard or at birthday parties. But jumping on a trampoline isn't just for kids—it's also a great workout for adults. Fitness instructor Suzanne Bowen was given one as a gift, and she loved it so much that she created a workout around it.

"Bungee-style trampoline workouts decrease impact on joints while revving up your heart rate, recruit muscles you didn't know you had and make you feel like a happy kid again," she said. "I took my method, BarreAmped, to the trampoline and could not believe how much more challenging and fun it was on the dynamic surface of the mat while holding onto the sturdy handle 'barre.'"

If you're interested in a trampoline-based workout, you'll need to budget for the workout accessories. You'll need a bungee-style trampoline with a handle, plus light hand weights and a DVD. At JumpSport.com, trampoline prices start at $199 and handle prices start at $79. A DVD like "BarreAmped Bounce" costs $19.99, or "JumpSport Fitness Trampoline and Cardio Strength Workout" costs $21.65 at Amazon.com.

BARRE

Barre workouts have been around for a few years, but the enthusiasm doesn't seem to be waning. Barre studios have popped up all over the country, and although you can probably find one near you, they tend to be expensive. At popular barre studio, Pure Barre, a monthly unlimited pass is $195, which is a new client special, according to GymMembershipFees.com.

At-home workouts are the more budget-friendly way to experience barre. Rachel Speck of Speck Fitness, Inc. created the Tendu Toning workout, which is a combination of ballet and bodybuilding. This 60-minute program is $19.99 at SpeckFitness.com.

"Ballet-inspired workouts are huge right now," said Speck. "They are great because they usually don't require much equipment, so they can be done at home. Misty Copeland has brought a huge awareness to the ballet community and has shown that dancers aren't just skinny — they are also insanely strong. Creating long, lean muscles is what all women desire, and what better way to do that than do a ballet-inspired workout?"

There are also free barre programs available on YouTube. The "Jessica Smith TV" YouTube channel has several free barre workouts of varying lengths.

ALEXA WORKOUTS

If you have an Alexa-enabled device at home, like the Amazon Echo or the Echo Dot, you've probably discovered its many free "skills." Maybe you use it each morning for the weather forecast or to play a genre of music that suits your mood. Now, Amazon has added several fitness-related skills.

There are yoga workouts through the "Yoga Schedule" skill, a "Seven-Minute Workout" skill and a "CrossFit Workout of the Day" skill, for starters. If you have questions about fitness, you can ask My Fitness Trainer. Some skills are automatically enabled, but others you have to verbally enable. Alexa, of course, will tell you how.

GROUP PERSONAL TRAINING

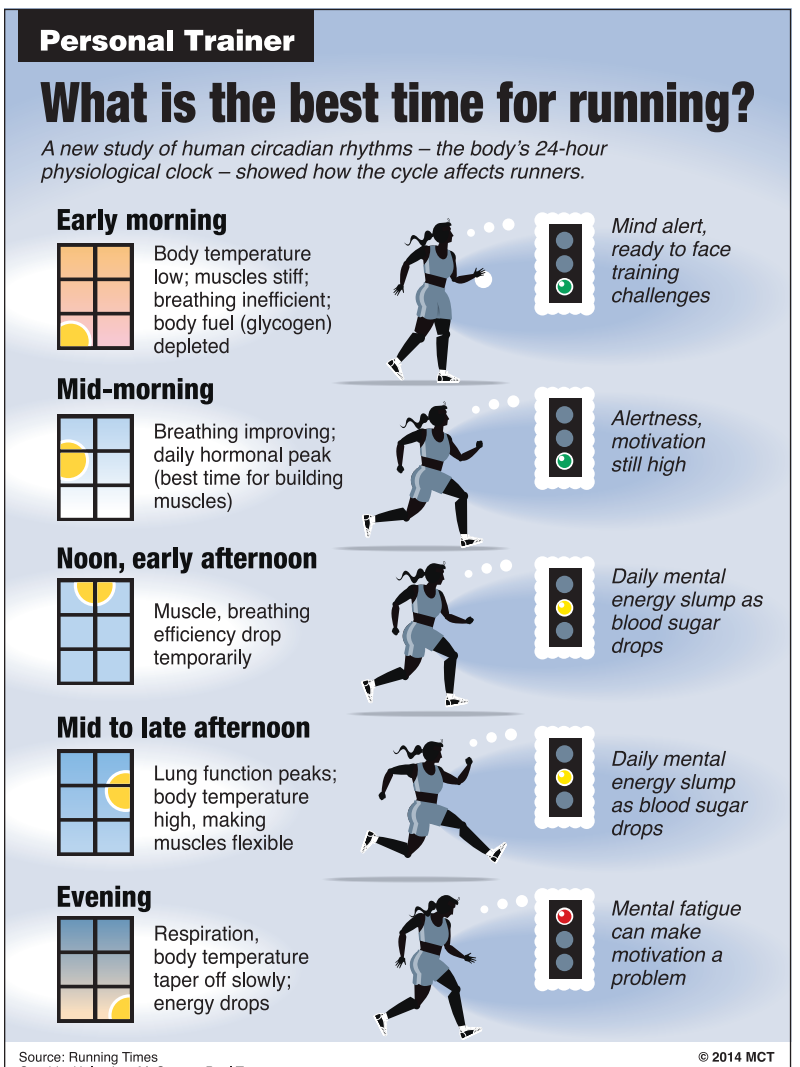
There's nothing like having a personal trainer to watch your form, motivate you and teach you new exercises. Unfortunately, they're also expensive.

If you've already exhausted the free training sessions that came with your gym membership and are hungry for more, ask your trainer if he or she would consider offering group training sessions. If you can split the fee with one, two or more friends, you'll receive personalized attention at a fraction of the cost.

"Personal training is an excellent way to get customized workouts, especially if you suffer from an injury. However, small group training is the perfect alternative and at a reduced cost," Murdock said. "If you keep the group small, you are still able to get a personal touch and reap the benefits of working out in a group for a bit of extra motivation."

Consider meeting up for the group training in a friend's basement or even in a local park.

GOBankingRates.com is a leading portal for personal finance news and features, offering visitors the latest information on everything from interest rates to strategies on saving money, managing a budget and getting out of debt.


Personal Trainer
What is the best time for running?
A new study of human circadian rhythms – the body's 24-hour physiological clock – showed how the cycle affects runners.
Early morning
Body temperature low; muscles stiff; breathing inefficient; body fuel (glycogen) depleted
Mind alert, ready to face training challenges
Mid-morning
Breathing improving; daily hormonal peak (best time for building muscles)
Alertness, motivation still high
Noon, early afternoon
Muscle, breathing efficiency drop temporarily
Daily mental energy slump as blood sugar drops
Mid to late afternoon
Lung function peaks; body temperature high, making muscles flexible
Daily mental energy slump as blood sugar drops
Evening
Respiration, body temperature taper off slowly; energy drops
Mental fatigue can make motivation a problem
Source: Running Times
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
© 2014 MCT

That extra cup of coffee can help you live longer, research shows

By DON SWEENEY
THE SACRAMENTO BEE/TNS

DREAMSTIME/TNS
That extra cup of coffee can help you live longer, research shows.

First, coffee was bad for you. Now it's good for you.

At least, that's the finding from a new meta-review of scientific literature on the topic in the British Medical Journal. The review shows that drinking three to four cups of black coffee a day can reduce a variety of health risks and can decrease your risk of death by 17 percent.

"Coffee consumption seems generally safe within usual levels of intake, with summary estimates indicating largest risk reduction for various health outcomes at three to four cups a day, and more likely to benefit health than harm," the report says.

The review linked coffee consumption to a lower risk of heart problems, diabetes, liver disease, dementia and some cancers. The study also found a 17 percent lower risk of death among subjects from all causes during the time they were studied, anywhere from 1 to 44 years in some studies.

There are a few caveats, however. Drinking more than four cups a day during pregnancy increases risks of low birth weight, pre-term birth and stillbirth, the review says. Women who drink more than four cups daily also are at greater risk for bone fractures, but not men.

Also, adding lots of calorie-rich creams, sugars or flavorings to your coffee can cancel out the health benefits and raise your risk of diabetes and other problems, the review says. Finally, the studies included in the review focused on 8 oz. cups of coffee per serving, not the "Tall" or "Grande" options available at most coffee shops.

The British Medical Journal review, published Tuesday by the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, examined 201 studies of health effects of coffee intake. While in the past some doctors warned against drinking coffee, recent studies have uncovered a variety of potential health benefits to limited coffee consumption.

A 2015 Gallup poll found that 64 percent of Americans drink at least one cup of coffee daily.

A study found drinking 3 or 4 cups of coffee per day is more likely to benefit your health and could decrease your risk of death by 17 percent.

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Life & Style

A general view of atmosphere at the Los Angeles premiere of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" at the Shrine Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 in Los Angeles.

AP

Early praise for 'The Last Jedi' after elaborate premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An elaborate premiere featuring a massive assault vehicle and a procession of Stormtroopers and droids preceded the first showing of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," and initial reactions praised the latest installment of the beloved space opera franchise.

Formal reviews won't be out for a few days, but journalists and others at the screening who shared their initial reactions online said "The Last Jedi" packed the adventure expected in a Star Wars film, but took it into new territory.

"Logan" director James Mangold praised "The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson, calling his film "a great chapter of a blockbuster franchise, spectacular and unpredictable, but also his own voice shining through."

Producer Adam F. Goldberg wrote that the film made him feel like a kid again.

Many who posted online about the premiere said they were still processing the film, which features the return of Luke Skywalker and the final performance of Carrie Fisher, who died after filming the eighth installment in the core Star Wars franchise.

Attendees at Saturday's premiere were the first people outside the cast, filmmakers and top executives at Walt Disney Co. and Lucasfilm who had seen "The Last Jedi." It will be publicly released on Friday.

Fans at the premiere were treated to up-close looks at new characters, including an elite squad of guards clad in red armor as well as a collection of droids, including the droids C-3PO, R2-D2, and BB-8, who walked and rolled down the red carpet before the film's stars arrived.

"It's a Star Wars movie, and the energy tonight is pretty amazing," said a beaming Andy Serkis, who plays the villain Supreme Leader Snoke.

Daisy Ridley, who plays Rey, arrived wearing a shimmering dress adorned with stars. Ridley was in good spirits, saying about her dress, "I mean, it's just fun. It's fun. And I feel fun. And it's got stars on it."

Newcomer Kelly Marie Tran wore a bright red dress with a lengthy train behind it. John Boyega, who earlier in the day tweeted that he might miss the premiere because a snowstorm had snarled travel out of Atlanta, arrived sporting a dark blue tuxedo and turtleneck.

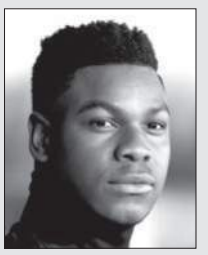
Secrecy about the film remained in place on the red carpet. Anthony Daniels, who plays C-3PO, told a reporter looking for details on the film, "I'm going to let you work out everything for yourself."

"The Last Jedi," which arrives in theaters on Dec. 15, is one of the year's biggest releases and includes the return of Luke Skywalker and Carrie Fisher's final role. Early box office projections are for the film to debut in the $200 million range for its first weekend.

Boyega escapes Atlanta snow, makes 'Last Jedi' premiere

NEW YORK (AP)—After tweeting that snow in Atlanta might keep him from making the "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" premiere in Los Angeles, actor John Boyega made it to the red carpet Saturday—and no starship was required.

Boyega started the day by tweeting from Atlanta: "Looks like no one's leaving!" and "I actually NEED a pilot." A snow storm led to hundreds of cancellations at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.



Boyega

His publicist told The Associated Press that his flight was able to leave Saturday morning, and Boyega calmed fans after his arrival with an update, saying he'd safely landed but his luggage didn't make it.

Boyega arrived on the red carpet, wearing a dark blue tuxedo and turtleneck.

Boyega's earlier tweets prompted a flurry of Star Wars jokes and memes online, including one from a fan who suggested Harrison Ford fly him to the premiere. Ford, a licensed pilot, co-starred with Boyega in 2015's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

The British actor plays Finn, a former Stormtrooper who escapes the First Order to join the Resistance, in the latest installment the latest installment in the Star Wars franchise.

Archaeologists discover 2 ancient tombs in Egypt's Luxor

LUXOR, Egypt (AP)—Egypt on Saturday announced the discovery of two small ancient tombs in the southern city Luxor dating back some 3,500 years and hoped it will help the country's efforts to revive its ailing tourism sector.

The tombs, located on the west bank of the river Nile in a cemetery for noblemen and top officials, are the latest discovery in the city famed for its temples and tombs spanning different dynasties of ancient Egyptian history.

"It's truly an exceptional day," Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said. "The 18th dynasty private tombs were already known. But it's the first time to enter inside the two tombs."

Al-Anani said the discoveries are part of the ministry's efforts to promote Egypt's vital tourism industry, partially driven by antiquities sightseeing, that was hit hard by extremist attacks and political turmoil following the 2011 uprising.

The ministry said one tomb has a courtyard lined with mud-brick and stone walls and contains a six-meter (yard) burial shaft leading to four side chambers. The artifacts found inside were mostly fragments of wooden coffins. Wall inscriptions and paintings suggest it belongs to era between the reigns of King Amenhotep II and King Thutmose IV, both pharaohs of the 18th dynasty.

The other tomb has five entrances leading to a rectangular hall and contains two burial shafts located in the northern and southern sides of the tomb.

Among the artifacts found inside are funerary cones, painted wooden funerary masks, clay vessels, a collection of some 450 statues and a mummy wrapped in linen who was likely a top official. A cartouche carved on the ceiling bears the name of King Thutmose I of the early 18th dynasty, the ministry said.

Afterward, al-Anani headed to a nearby site where the famous Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut is located to open for the first time the temple's main sanctuary known as the "Holy of Holies."

Since the beginning of 2017, the Antiquities Ministry has made a string of discoveries in several provinces across Egypt—including the tomb of a royal goldsmith, in the same area and belonging to the same dynasty, whose work was dedicated to the ancient Egyptian god Amun.

Director Bryan Singer denies sex assault on teen in 2003

SEATTLE (AP)—A new lawsuit accuses "Superman Returns" director Bryan Singer of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy at a party on a yacht more than a decade ago.

The lawsuit filed in King County Superior Court in Seattle claims that Singer demanded sex from Cesar Sanchez-Guzman while giving him a tour of the vessel as it sailed on Lake Union and Lake Washington. After the then-teenager refused, the lawsuit says, Singer pushed him on a bed and raped him.

In a statement Friday, attorney Andrew Brettler said Singer "categorically denies these allegations and will vehemently defend this lawsuit to the very end."

Singer

"Cesar Sanchez-Guzman apparently claims that he did not remember this alleged incident from 2003 until now," the statement said. "Significantly, when Sanchez-Guzman filed for bankruptcy only a few years ago, he failed to disclose this alleged claim when he was supposed to identify all of his assets, but conveniently, now that the bankruptcy court discharged all of his debts, he is able to recall the alleged events."

The statement also took issue with a lawyer for the accuser, Jeffrey Herman, who filed a sex abuse lawsuit against Singer and other Hollywood executives in 2014 on behalf of former child actor and model Michael Egan.

Within months, Egan's case was dismissed, and Herman eventually paid a settlement and apologized to two of the executives, saying, "I believe that I participated in making what I now know to be untrue and provably false allegations against you."

Egan pleaded guilty to fraud in an unrelated federal case in 2015.

"Notwithstanding his track record, this same lawyer is coming after Bryan again," Singer's lawyer said in the statement Friday. "We are confident that this case will turn out the same way the Egan case did."

Michael Pfau, a Seattle-based lawyer for Sanchez-Guzman, has represented many sex abuse victims, including cases that have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in payments from the Catholic church, Mormon church and the Boy Scouts.

He said he was not involved in Egan's case but began working on Sanchez-Guzman's case with a referral from Herman.

"Abusers often deny these accusers at first," Pfau said Friday. "Our client has a very credible story. To equate him with someone who lives in a different state and was involved in different circumstances isn't relevant."

Singer, who also directed several "X-Men" movies and "The Usual Suspects," is the latest in a wave of sexual harassment and abuse allegations against powerful men in the entertainment industry, media and politics that began in October with accusations against Harvey Weinstein.

Allegations have also ensnared Kevin Spacey, who starred in the "The Usual Suspects."

Last weekend, Britain's The Sunday Times reported that Gabriel Bryne, one of Spacey's co-stars in that 1995 film, said production on it was once abruptly shut down for two days because Spacey had made inappropriate sexual advances toward a younger actor.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Big Little Lies' back for season 2 with Kidman, Witherspoon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—HBO says the dark drama "Big Little Lies" is coming back for a second season. The channel said Friday that Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon will again star and serve as executive producers of the Emmy-winning series. The new episodes are based in part on a story by Liane Moriarty, author of the novel "Big Little Lies." The drama's first-season writer, David E. Kelly, is returning to write the seven new episodes. Andrea Arnold, whose credits include "Transparent," will direct. HBO said the series will explore friendships, the fragility of marriage and include the potential for "emotional and bodily injury." The first season of "Big Little Lies" included domestic abuse and a violent death.

An air date for season two was not announced.

Actress Fran Drescher hosts Hanukkah celebration

BOSTON (AP)—Actress Fran Drescher is hosting a major Hanukkah celebration in Boston. "The Nanny" star will host a celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights on Saturday at the Union for Reform Judaism's convention at the Hynes Convention Center. The organization says it's the largest Jewish religious gathering in North America, with some 5,500 Jewish leaders from 57 states and provinces in attendance. The organization says the Hanukkah celebration will include stories and songs highlighting Hanukkah as a "call for more social justice and compassion in the world." Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and is celebrated for eight days and nights. The holiday runs from Dec. 12 to Dec. 20 this year.

Charlie Sheen sues tabloid over assault allegation

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen is suing the National Enquirer, saying that the magazine defamed him by alleging he sexually assaulted teen actor Corey Haim. In papers filed Friday in Los Angeles, Sheen called the tabloid's allegations "ridiculous" and "disgusting." The Enquirer's Nov. 8 edition includes a quote from actor Dominick Brascia, saying that Sheen had assaulted Haim when he was in his mid-teens and Sheen around 20. Sheen and Haim, who died in 2010, both appeared in the 1986 release "Lucas." Brascia told the Enquirer that the assault came during the film's production. Sheen is seeking unspecified damages. The Enquirer's parent company, American Media Inc., said in a statement Saturday that it looked "forward to litigating" the case and welcomed the chance to expose Sheen's "depravities."

Princes William and Harry chose sculptor for Diana statue

LONDON (AP)—Kensington Palace says Princes William and Harry have chosen sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley to create a statute of their mother, Princess Diana, to mark the 20th anniversary of her death. Rank-Broadley, whose image of Queen Elizabeth II has appeared on British coins since 1998, will complete the work by 2019. The statue will be placed on the grounds of Kensington Palace, where Diana once lived. The princes said in a statement Sunday that the statue is meant to create "a fitting and lasting tribute to our mother" and to remember her life and legacy. The princes added they had been touched by the kind words and memories shared with them about Diana this year, as the world recalled her death in a Paris car accident in 1997.

LOUVRE-BOUND AP

In this Oct. 24, 2017 file photo, an employee poses with Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" on display at Christie's auction rooms in London. The rare painting of Christ, which that sold for a record $450 million, is heading to a museum in Abu Dhabi. The newly-opened Louvre Abu Dhabi made the announcement in a tweet on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Years of bailouts fail to help sister who's drowning in debt

DEAR ABBY: My only sister has been "borrowing" money from me every month for years. She has a ton of credit card debt and cannot afford to meet her monthly financial obligations.

Last year my husband and I paid her property taxes for her so she wouldn't lose her house. It was over $5,000. She promised to pay us back with her tax return money, but we never saw a dime.

I have given her information on debt consolidation programs and offered to pay for her to file bankruptcy, but she has done nothing to improve her financial situation.

She works and makes OK money. Her husband is disabled, but gets Social Security and a small pension. She also supports her adult child, who doesn't work, and she smokes like a chimney.

I have told her many times that I can't keep giving her money, but she still asks every month. This is causing a strain in my marriage. I don't know what else to do. Any words of advice would be appreciated.

TIRED OF BEING ASKED FOR MONEY

DEAR TIRED: You are a caring sister, but what you have done out of love and charity has allowed your sister to continue living beyond her means. The next time she asks for money, remind her that you have already given her information about debt consolidation, and that you will no longer continue pouring your and your husband's hard-earned money down a bottomless pit. Then stick to your guns.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I, 21 years happily married, have a recurring problem. It rarely happens, but when it does, it causes an argument.

A recent example: Late the other evening, my husband, adult daughter and I were returning home from a hockey game in separate cars due to our work schedules before the game. There are several routes to get home from where we were. I followed my daughter, while my husband took a different route to get home faster.

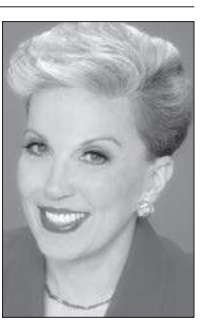
I think it would have been a chivalrous and fatherly thing for him to follow us and make sure we made it home safely. I got angry that he didn't do it, and it turned into a huge argument. My grown daughters and I are fiercely feminist and independent, but I still think it would have been the caring thing to do. My own father would, even after I was 40, and he still does it to this day.

It didn't bother my daughter, but it bothered me. What are your thoughts, Abby? If you think it's not an issue, I will let it go from now on.

TO FOLLOW OR NOT TO FOLLOW

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR TO FOLLOW: Your father comes from a generation in which men were taught it was their duty to protect the females in their family. Your spouse is the husband of a fiercely feminist wife and the father of a daughter cut from the same cloth. Independent women do not need to be followed home unless they request it because they assume they can handle whatever happens themselves -- particularly if they are traveling in twos. You can't have it both ways.

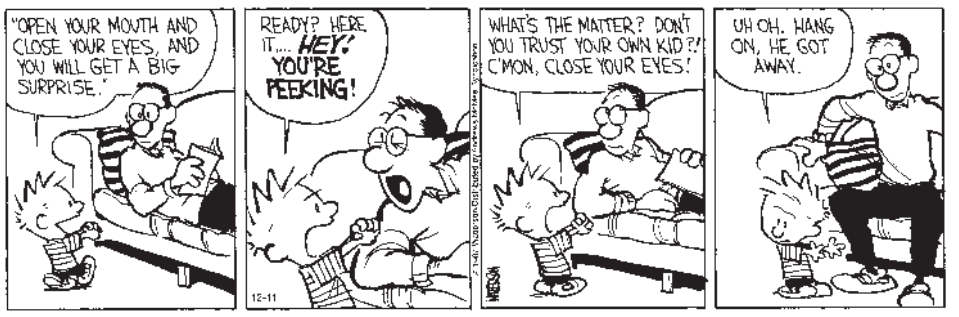
You say you have a happy marriage. Please give your husband a break.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND YOU WILL GET A BIG SURPRISE."
READY? HERE IT.... HEY! YOU'RE PEEKING!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU TRUST YOUR OWN KID?! C'MON, CLOSE YOUR EYES!
UH OH. HANG ON, HE GOT AWAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE IS EASY! NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ENTER MY CREDIT CARD NUMBER!
DON'T BOTHER. I ALREADY HAVE IT MEMORIZED
TIC TIC TIC

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hotel worker
5 Jazzy style
8 June honorees
12 Rose Bowl city
14 Stretches (out)
15 Burr's duel victim
16 Ale measure
17 Bro's kin
18 Sullies
20 Ancient manuscript
23 Stylish
24 Hertz rival
25 Country singer Blake
28 Bit of wit
29 Head lights?
30 Victory sign
32 Explosive measure
34 Equipment
35 Pudding variety
36 After-dinner remarks?
37 Santa's ride
40 — polloi
41 Imprudent
42 Alberta's capital
47 Brewer's kiln
48 Observed from the sidelines
49 Yon folks
50 "Mayday!"
51 Tennis legend Arthur

DOWN

1 Speedometer stat
2 Small battery
3 Belief
4 Speakers' platforms
5 Wagers
6 Music's Yoko
7 Temple of the gods
8 Portray
9 Related
10 Fender bender
11 Bygone fliers
13 Nero's 559
19 Has a bug
20 Bottle top
21 Egg
22 Eat in style
23 Daphnis' love
25 Messenger bags
26 Done with
27 Tide type
29 Reagan Cabinet member
31 Hosp. sections
33 Fearless
34 Papua New —
36 Library loan
37 Espy
38 Wife of Jacob
39 Gaelic
40 Med. plan options
43 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
44 QB's goals
45 La-la lead-in
46 SSW opposite

Solution time: 26 mins.

G	O	V		S	L	U	G		M	E	M	O
A	B	U		H	O	R	A		E	L	A	N
B	I	L	L	I	O	N	S		O	I	L	L
		T	E	R	M			P	I	E	T	Y
C	L	U	N	K		E	P	I	C			
O	U	R	S		O	V	A	T	I	O	N	S
O	N	E		K	N	E	L	T		V	I	A
P	A	S	S	I	O	N	S		H	E	L	P
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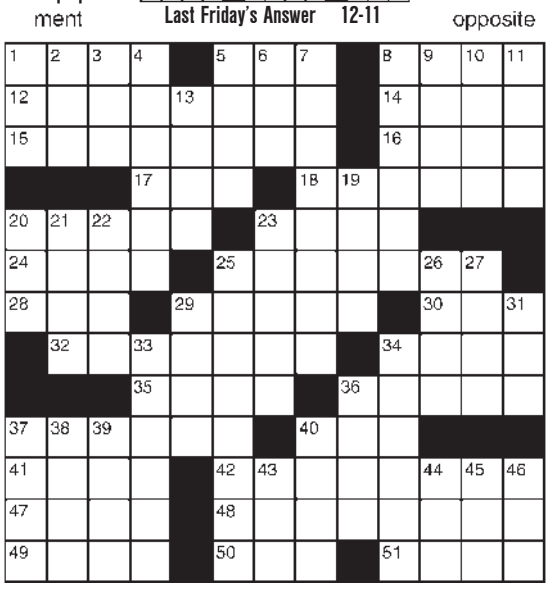
D	F	R	F	K			D	O	W	D		
E	V	I	L		O	P	I	N	I	O	N	S
B	E	L	T		R	I	V	E		N	E	E
T	N	E	E		C	P	A	S		E	A	T

Last Friday's Answer 12-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mo'Nique, 50; Gary Dourdin, 51; Jermaine Jackson, 63; Bess Armstrong, 63.

Happy Birthday: Ease into whatever you decide to indulge in this year. Get your facts straight and learn all you can before making promises. Change can be fortuitous as long as you know what you are doing and don't leave anything to chance. Avoid mishaps by not taking part in gossip or misleading others. False information and emotional manipulation are the enemy. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 33, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be playful instead of pushy if you want to get someone to pitch in and help. Communication will make or break whatever partnership you are trying to form. Personal improvements will impress someone you love. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Stay focused on what's important. Don't go overboard or make a big fuss over nothing. Choose your battles wisely and try to get things done instead of brooding about something you have no control over. Don't donate when you should be saving. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make changes to personal documents, the way you go about saving money and how you deal with important partnerships. What you do now will help you avoid falling short on your goals or responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make a promise to be more innovative in the way you deal with others as well as how you take care of your responsibilities. Don't let emotions come between you and doing what's right. Less change and more perfection are favored. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get out and explore new people and places. Short trips, communication and making changes to your regular routine will bring positive results. Avoid domestic problems, arguments and overindulgence of any kind. If someone is a poor influence, keep your distance. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look at your options before making a decision. A modest approach to whatever you decide to do will help you avoid a situation that is completely beyond your control. Don't trust anyone to handle your affairs for you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Suggestions or collaboration will result in positive changes if you use your charm and intelligence to make them happen. Show emotion and be responsive to what others do and say. A romantic gesture will lead to a passionate encounter. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen carefully when dealing with others. Someone will use personal information against you if you aren't quick to counter any comments made in a group setting. Be polite, but don't let anyone get away with speaking on your behalf. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Precise information will help you avoid misinterpreting the facts. Take good care of your health and your relationships with others. Manipulative tactics on someone's part will be the start of a relentless feud. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep close tabs on your health. Don't bring about unnecessary changes that may disrupt your personal life or your reputation. Search for pursuits that will result in greater knowledge, skill and advancement opportunities. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of personal business and do your best to help someone who has helped you in the past. Keep your life simple and your expenses minimal. Indulgence of any kind will result in discord. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't be fooled by flattery or someone's manipulative ways. Listen carefully and let your intuition be your barometer for what's true or false. Your openness is honorable, but may also make you vulnerable. Protect your personal information. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, playful and enthusiastic. You are original and entertaining.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	8	9					3
1	3		4			9		
7				1			8	
4	6				8			
		3				8		
			2				6	7
	9			7				2
		1			4		3	8
6					1	4	5	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	2	5	1	4	8	3	6	9
9	6	3	5	2	7	1	8	4
4	8	1	3	9	6	5	7	2
6	4	9	7	3	1	2	5	8
3	5	2	4	8	9	6	1	7
1	7	8	2	6	5	9	4	3
2	1	6	9	7	4	8	3	5
8	9	7	6	5	3	4	2	1
5	3	4	8	1	2	7	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CHEERLEADER UNIFORMS Solution: 7 letters

S	H	A	L	T	E	R	S	H	E	L	O	O	C
E	T	P	O	E	N	I	L	T	S	I	A	W	I	M
H	S	F	S	L	L	E	H	S	P	R	I	N	T	S
C	E	N	O	B	Ⓑ	I	R	S	E	Z	I	S	P	D
A	V	M	A	S	C	Ⓞ	T	R	R	M	E	O	C	E
O	T	H	E	M	E	I	Ⓦ	P	U	I	T	A	H	K
C	X	C	O	S	C	O	P	Ⓢ	L	C	R	P	E	C
I	E	T	N	K	S	U	H	L	E	D	O	A	E	E
L	D	A	D	O	E	A	O	S	I	M	L	T	R	N
L	N	M	R	K	C	L	H	G	S	F	O	T	L	E
A	A	M	A	E	T	I	A	C	N	I	C	E	E	L
T	P	M	T	B	U	N	D	I	E	S	N	R	A	T
E	S	U	O	L	B	E	C	O	T	T	O	N	D	R
M	T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	U
O	G	O	L	I	N	E	R	S	S	S	K	I	R	T

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Last Friday's Answer: Kettlebells

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
INVESTIGATOR

Opening Date: 12/11/17 Closing Date: Continuous
POSITION: Investigator EXAMINATION NO. OPA-17-002

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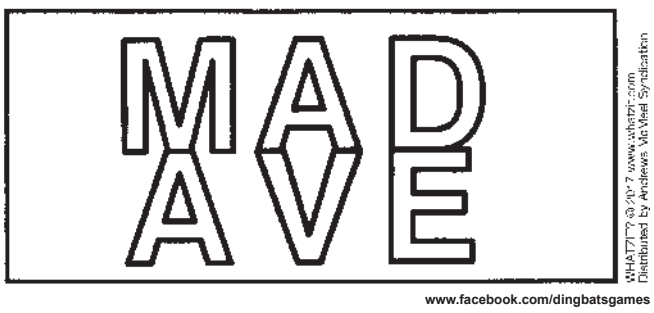

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Yankees set to reel in Stanton from Marlins

MIAMI (AP)—After helping the New York Yankees to five World Series titles, Derek Jeter might help them win another.

The Yankees and Jeter's Miami Marlins have agreed to a trade that would send NL MVP Giancarlo Stanton to New York, pending a physical, a person familiar with the negotiations said Saturday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the agreement.

Second baseman Starlin Castro would go to Miami as part of the trade, a second person familiar with the negotiations said. A third person said the Marlins would also receive prospects Jorge Guzman, a right-hander, and Jose Devers, an infielder who is a cousin of Boston prospect Rafael Devers.

The third person said the deal calls for the Marlins to send $30 million to the Yankees if Stanton doesn't exercise his right to opt out of his contract and become a free agent after the 2020 season.

Stanton has a no-trade clause in his record $325 million, 13-year contract and has indicated he will approve the trade, one of the people said. St. Louis and San Francisco said Friday that Stanton had vetoed deals to them.

As for the physical, injuries curtailed Stanton's season in four of the past six years, but he played a career-high 159 games in 2017 and led the majors with 59 homers and 132 RBI.

AP

Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton fouls off a pitch from Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Tyler Anderson in the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017, in Denver.

If the Yankees complete the trade with Jeter, their former captain and the new Marlins CEO, the Bronx Bombers would pair Stanton with Aaron Judge, who led the AL with 52 in his rookie season. That would give them a one-two punch to rival Ruth-Gehrig or Mantle-Maris, making for must-see batting practice.

Judge sent a tweet to Stanton showing a clip from the movie "Step Brothers" with Will Ferrell saying, "Did we just become best friends?"

Obtaining the 28-year-old Stanton would be reminiscent of the Yankees' acquisition of AL MVP Alex Rodriguez from Texas after the 2003 season for second baseman Alfonso Soriano. Rodriguez signed a $275 million, 10-year contract after the 2007 season that ran through age 42; Stanton's deal runs through age 38.

An eight-year veteran with 267 home runs, Stanton has never played on a winning team and might now go to a club that hasn't had a losing record since 1992. The Yankees reached Game 7 of the AL Championship Series this season in the first full year of a youth movement.

New Yankees manager Aaron Boone, along with the front office, would have to sort where Stanton will play. He has played his whole big league career in right field, as has Judge. The Yankees also have the option of using one of them as a designated hitter.

Stanton is owed $295 million over the final decade of his record $325 million, 13-year contract. The All-Star right fielder led the majors in homers and RBI, but his salary will rise to $25 million in 2018.

Jeter is expected to reduce payroll by at least 20 percent to $90 million or less. The Marlins shed $38 million of salary through 2020 by trading two-time All-Star second baseman Dee Gordon to the Seattle Mariners on Thursday for three prospects.

Castro, who hit .300 with 16 home runs this year, could replace Gordon at second base—or might also be dealt by Miami because of his contract. He's due $10 million in 2018 and $11 million in 2019 plus a $16 million club option for 2020 with a $1 million buyout.

Gary Denbo, the Marlins new vice president of scouting and player development, spent the past eight years with New York and oversaw a farm system that ranks among the best in baseball. Guzman went 5-3 this year with a 2.30 ERA for Class A Staten Island. Devers, who just turned 18, batted .245 with 16 steals in 53 games for two teams in the low minors.

More Marlins deals are possible at the winter meetings beginning Sunday in Lake Buena Vista; Castro and outfielders Christian Yelich and Marcell Ozuna possibly are on the trading block.

The Yankees' payroll for purposes of baseball's luxury tax was about $209 million this year, and owner Hal Steinbrenner has vowed to reduce it below next year's $197 million threshold, which would reset the team's base tax rate from 50 percent to 20 percent in 2019. That would put the Yankees in better position for next offseason's free agent class, which includes Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and possibly Clayton Kershaw.

Stanton counts as $25 million for the luxury tax, but trading Castro cuts New York's tax payroll by $8,801,786. Rodriguez ($27.5 million) comes off the payroll after this year, and five high-priced Yankees have become free agents: CC Sabathia ($20 million), Matt Holliday ($13 million), Michael Pineda ($7.4 million), Todd Frazier ($4,918,033) and Jaime Garcia ($4,961,721).

New York could trade third baseman Chase Headley ($13 million), expendable because of prospects Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar. Outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, who counts as $21,857,143, appears to be superfluous in an outfield that includes Stanton, Judge, Aaron Hicks and Brett Gardner. Ellsbury is owed $21,142, 857 in each of the next three years as part of a deal that includes a $21 million team option for 2021 with a $1 million buyout.

After missing out on Japanese right-hander Shohei Ohtani, the Yankees are expected to seek starting pitching to bolster a rotation currently projected to include Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, Sonny Gray, Jordan Montgomery and Luis Cessa.

Stanton would take a cut in take-home pay for his games in the Bronx. While Florida has no state income tax, New York State has an 8.82 percent top rate on income and New York City a 3.876 percent top rate. But he might make up the difference in new endorsements.

Angels welcome Ohtani, plot course for 2-way Japanese star

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—General manager Billy Eppler rose from his seat in rapturous joy when he got the phone call telling him Shohei Ohtani wanted to join the Los Angeles Angels.

When Eppler attempted to sit back down, he missed his chair completely, sprawling onto the floor.

Ohtani has inspired strong reactions ever since the world became aware of the Japanese star's formidable talent as both a pitcher and a hitter.

Now that the Angels have landed such a coveted prize, they can't wait to see who else he can knock over.

The Angels formally introduced Ohtani on Saturday, one day after the franchise won the baseball-wide competition for his services.

A lively crowd gathered in front of Angel Stadium cheered when Ohtani donned a red No. 17 jersey and hat on stage with team owner Arte Moreno, manager Mike Scioscia and Eppler.

Ohtani doesn't speak much English yet, but he stepped to the podium and addressed the fans confidently: "Hi. My name is Shohei Ohtani."

Ohtani already knows how to work a crowd, too: He had the perfect answer when asked whether he was more excited to get his first pitching victory or his first homer in the big leagues.

"Hopefully, if I can pull it off, maybe both in one game," he said through a translator.

Ohtani's grand experiment with the Angels is off to an entertaining start. The league-wide courtship ended Friday with his decision to join Mike Trout and Albert Pujols in Orange County.

The 23-year-old former Japanese MVP is attempting to become the majors' most significant two-way player in several decades, and he will have every opportunity to fill two prominent roles with the Angels.

Ohtani is expected to join the Angels' starting rotation next season, and he will be their designated hitter on many days when he isn't pitching, Scioscia said. Ohtani won't play in the outfield "at the outset" of his career, which likely includes at least his first season in Anaheim, Eppler said.

Ohtani's decision was the culmination of years of hard work for the scouts and personnel executives led by Eppler, who has been traveling to Japan since 2013 to see Ohtani.

"There was a wow factor to him," Eppler said. "He was a little bit of a show-stopper. Big fastball. The ability to throw three off-speed pitches for strikes. And have the presence in the batter's box that we gravitated to. He fits a lot of our offensive philosophy."

Although Eppler felt Ohtani would be an ideal fit with the Angels, he had no idea whether Ohtani would agree. Moreno led the Angels' presentation to Ohtani on Monday after he selected them as one of seven finalists, and they waited nervously for four days before getting the news.

Ohtani didn't reveal all of his reasons for choosing the Angels over the Mariners, Rangers, Dodgers, Cubs, Yankees, Red Sox and every other club.

"I just felt a strong connection with the Angels," Ohtani said through a translator.

That's enough for the Angels, who believe they can provide every opportunity for Ohtani to cultivate the two-way skills that have inspired comparisons to a young Babe Ruth. The Angels believe Ohtani has the intensity and focus to do something unprecedented in recent baseball history.

"This guy consumes all things baseball," Eppler said. "There is not a lot else going on in his world but baseball (and) training. He does like to read a lot."

Eppler also described Ohtani as "very humble," and compared his mental makeup to that of Trout, whose video phone call to recruit Ohtani apparently went quite well. Trout, on the East Coast for his wedding this weekend, called Eppler late Monday night after the meeting to ask: "What's he like? What's he like?"

Harden scores 48 points, Rockets win 9th in row

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—James Harden scored 48 points and the Houston Rockets won their ninth straight, overcoming a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 124-117 on Saturday night.

Harden was 16 of 29 from the field and had eight rebounds to help the Rockets (20-4) win for the 12th time in 13 road games this season. Chris Paul added 24 points, and Trevor Ariza had 13.

Damian Lillard tied a franchise record with nine 3-pointers and had 35 points for Portland (13-12). C.J. McCollum had 28 points, and Al-Farouq Aminu added 15, all on 3-pointers.

Portland put Houston in a hole early in the third quarter, scoring 11 consecutive points to take a 78-72 lead. The lead grew was at 14 late in the third quarter when Lillard limped to the bench, favoring his right foot. With Lillard's foot on ice, Houston launched a rally, pulling to 103-98 when Lillard returned with seven minutes remaining. But the Rockets had momentum, and took a 110-109 lead on Ariza's 3-pointer.

The Rockets never trailed again, outscoring Portland 14-6 during the final three minutes.

AP

Houston Rockets guard James Harden drives to the basket against Portland Trail Blazers guard Evan Turner during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017.

Cavaliers 105, 76ers 98

In Cleveland, LeBron James had his 58th career triple-double and Cleveland rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Philadelphia.

James had 30 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists to help the Cavaliers bounce back from a loss in Indiana on Friday night that ended their 13-game winning streak.

Sixers forward Robert Covington fell into Cleveland's bench trying to save a loose ball with just over a minute to play. He was down for a couple of minutes before being helped to his feet.

Thunder 102, Grizzlies 101, OT

In Memphis, Russell Westbrook overcame a poor shooting night, recording a triple-double, including two clinching free throws with 5.2 seconds left in overtime to lead Oklahoma City past Memphis.

Westbrook, who was 7 of 29 from the field and missed 11 of his 12 3-point attempts, added 14 assists and 11 rebounds. Carmelo Anthony and Steven Adams led the Thunder with 21 points and nine rebounds eac.

Heat 101, Nets 89

In Mexico City, Goran Dragic and Tyler Johnson each scored 20 points and Miami beat Brooklyn in the Heat's first game in Mexico in franchise history.

Playing in front of 19,777 fans at raucous Arena Ciudad de Mexico, Dragic was 9 of 19 from the field and had seven rebounds for Miami. The Heat snapped a two-game losing streak to improve to 12-13.

James Johnson added 17 points, Justice Winslow had 15 and Kelly Olynyk 11 for Miami. The Heat rallied from two seven-point deficits.

Lakers 110, Hornets 99

In Charlotte, Jordan Clarkson scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Los Angeles BEAT fatigued and short-handed Charlotte.

Brandon Ingram added 18 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope 15 and Lonzo Ball had five points and nine assists for the Lakers. They have won two straight after losing five in a row.

Kemba Walker scored 23 points and Dwight Howard had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte. The Hornets have lost seven of eight.

Spurs 104, Suns 101

In Phoenix, Bryn Forbes sank a 3-pointer with 21.5 seconds to play and severely depleted San Antonio held off a fourth-quarter Phoenix rally.

The Spurs left Pau Gasol and Manu Ginobili home to rest after a victory over against Boston on Friday night and had Danny Green (left groin tightness) and Kyle Anderson (left MCL sprain) out with injuries.

Clippers 113, Wizards 112

In Los Angeles, Lou Williams hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds remaining, lifting Los Angeles past Washington.

With Bradley Beal guarding him, Williams unleashed the winner from the top of the key, capping a wild final 12 seconds in which both teams traded leads on clutch plays.

After Williams' basket, there was a video review of Beal's potential winning baseline jumper.

Bulls 104, Knicks 102

In Chicago, Kris Dunn made two free throws with 2.9 seconds left to lift Chicago past New York..

Dunn was fouled by Courtney Lee while driving to the basket.

Following a timeout, the Knicks had a chance to tie or take the lead, but Kristaps Porzingis missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Nikola Mirotic, in just his second game of the season, had 19 points to help Chicago win its second straight.

Bucks 117, Jazz 100

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists and Milwaukee beat Utah for its third consecutive victory.

Antetokounmpo scored 24 points in the second half. Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe each added 20 points. Rudy Gobert and Alec Burks each had 20 points for Utah.

Hawks 117, Magic 110

In Atlanta, Ersan Ilyasova scored 26 points on 9-for-9 shooting and Atlanta overcame Nikola Vucevic's triple-double to beat Orlando.

Vucevic had 31 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, and Jonathan Simmons added a career-high 29 points for the Magic. They beat the Hawks 110-106 in overtime Wednesday night in Orlando.

Kent Bazemore scored six late points for Atlanta, with two baskets coming on dunks following steals.

As NFL rookies' impact grows, AP finds best clubs limit use

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL rookies are contributing as much as, or more than, ever nowadays.

Just look at the statistics: With players such as running backs Alvin Kamara of the New Orleans Saints and Kareem Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs, quarterback Deshaun Watson of the Houston Texans (until he tore up his knee, anyway) and cornerbacks Marshon Lattimore of the Saints and Adoree Jackson of the Tennessee Titans making immediate impacts—to name a handful of examples—this season's class ranks among the strongest since 2000.

Based on data from Sportradar through Week 10 of each year in that span—before additional rookies get extra snaps as a result of injuries to veterans or because eliminated clubs want to figure out what they might have for the future— the 2017 crew shows up as No. 1 in rushing yards, No. 2 in TDs, No. 3 in receiving yards and No. 4 in tackles.

"Rookies are being asked to do more right away than they used to be," Washington Redskins linebacker Ryan Kerrigan said. "Teams are wanting to get more out of you sooner."

That's true, and it's part of a larger shift : More than 55 percent of all snaps are now taken by players 26 or younger, at least in part due to seeking relatively cheap labor.

But the rookie trends are not simply a reflection of more playing time, because the total number of games started by rookies through Week 10 was the lowest since 2010. It's that they're making the most of their chances.

Still, teams need to be wary of just how much they rely on the very youngest members of their locker rooms: An Associated Press examination of the past 10 seasons shows that the worst clubs inordinately rely on newcomers. The five teams with the most games started by rookies since the start of the 2008 season all ranked among the eight with the fewest victories: the Browns, Jaguars, Buccaneers, Raiders and Bills.

Solo is running for president of US Soccer

NEW YORK (AP)—The former U.S. Olympic and World Cup goalkeeper announced her candidacy Thursday night on Facebook. It comes less than a week after current U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said he will not seek a fourth term. His decision came in the wake of the recent failure of the U.S. men's team to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

The 36-year-old Solo anchored the U.S. team in goal during its 2015 Women's World Cup championship run.

"I know exactly what U.S. Soccer needs to do, I know exactly how to do it, and I possess the fortitude to get it done," Solo said in her post. "I have always been willing to sacrifice for what I believe in and I believe there is no greater sacrifice then fighting for equal opportunity, integrity and honesty, especially in an organization lik the USSF that could give so much more to our communities across the nation."

She brings a crowded field to nine candidates. She is the second woman to announce a bid for the job, joining Soccer United Marketing President Kathy Carter.

Her tenure with the national team ended following the Rio Olympics, when the Americans were ousted by Sweden in the quarterfinals. Afterward, Solo called the Swedish team "cowards" for their defensive style of play.

She was suspended from the team shortly thereafter and has not returned. Solo made 202 total appearances with the national team, with 153 wins and an international-record 102 shutouts.

She's also been dogged by several off-the-field controversies. Those include a domestic violence case stemming from a 2014 altercation at a family member's home in Washington state.

Other U.S. Soccer Federation candidates include former national team players Paul Caligiuri, Eric Wynalda and Kyle Martino. They're joined by USSF vice president Carlos Cordeiro, Boston lawyer Steve Gans, New York lawyer Michael Winograd and Paul LaPointe, Northeast Conference manager of the United Premier Soccer League.

The election will be held in February.

Solo said she is campaigning on four core principles: to create a winning culture in U.S. Soccer, starting with youth development; to push for equal pay for the women's national team and all women within U.S. Soccer; to address the "pay-to-play" model and make soccer accessible to all; and stress transparency within the federation.

"What we have lost in America is belief in our system, in our coaches, in our talent pool, and in the governance of US Soccer," she said. "We now must refocus our goals and come together as a soccer community to bring about the changes we desire.

POI prevails in TanHoldings caging opener

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

POI Aviation drew first blood in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after beating *Saipan Tribune*, 62-56, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

POI paraded a loaded roster, allowing the team to take control of the match right from the get-go, while *Saipan Tribune* struggled to counter with its lack of manpower.

Ferdie Arago led POI's debut win after scoring 17 points, including three of the squad's first four field goals. With Arago on target early, POI built a 9-0 advantage and never relinquished the upper hand from thereon, leading by as much as 16 in the second half.

Arago ended up with 12 points in the first half, while Jon Bait came off the bench and chipped in 8, 6 came from downtown, to lift POI to a 30-24 lead.

Saipan Tribune fell behind by 14 in the first half, but managed to cut the deficit to a decent number after the first 20 minutes of play, thanks to Almond Edralin's baskets. Edralin nailed 13 points in the opening half and drew some support from Dela Torre, who added 6.

Edralin continued his hot shooting in the second half, but it was not enough to bring his team back in the game, as POI spread the wealth, drawing baskets from multiple players to keep its safe distance. Edralin had a game-high 30 markers on a losing effort.

Meanwhile, two more games were played in the opening week of the TanHoldings caging with defending champion Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan battling Shirley's Coffee Shop in the second match and CTSI/D&Q Warriors facing Kanoa Resort in the night cap. Results of these games will be reported later this week.

POI 62 — Arago 17, Bait 12, Santos 10, Paran 6, Tenepere 3, R. Kim 3, Yu 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, Villaluna 2, Mendiola 2.

Saipan Tribune 56 — Edralin 30, De La Torre 9, Rabago 7, Lapuz 6, Calibo 2, Pagarao 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-24, 62-56.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

POI Aviation's Ferdie Arago pulls up for a shot in front of the defense of *Saipan Tribune's* Almond Edralin during the first half of their game in the opening week of the TanHoldings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SLLB starts preparation for 2018 season

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Little League Baseball has begun its preparation for the upcoming 2018 season as the group held a meeting last Saturday at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SLLB player agent Piding Tenorio said that 18 teams, spread out in the five divisions, have signed up for this season. Minors (8 to 9 years old), Majors (10-12), 50-70 (13), Junior (13-14), and Senior (15-16) are the age divisions.

"This year, we're starting with the Minor for 8 to 9-year olds at it will be interesting to see the kids play. So far, we're expecting three teams in the Minors. But we're still accepting teams that want to join," said Tenorio.

SLLB returning president Mike Borja said the managers meeting last Saturday was held for them to have an idea on how many teams will join this season's competition.

"So we could plan the schedule of games since we need to also prepare for the [district and Asia-Pacific] tournaments. We're also going to start preparing the [Miguel Basa Pangelinan] field by January. We're going to work with [Northern Marianas Sports Association] personnel just like we did during the ASPAC here on Saipan," Borja said.

"We're expecting a lot of renovation here at the sports complex, so we have come up with a backup plan of using the Capital Hill Ballfield. That is one of our alternatives, an option for us. We also encourage the business community for their continued support to the program."

Games will be held every Saturdays and Sundays.

Former SLL president A.J. Murig is this year's vice president with Malcolm Omar as secretary, while Annie Flores returns as the treasurer to join Borja and Tenorio on the SLLB board.

ROTA

From Page 28

with the pitching drills behind the plate, while Ray Palacios assisted in the statistics.

Quitugua said earning their certification is timely since the Rota Little League is scheduled to open either in late February or early March.

"This certification course will be a big help to our Little League program. Now we have certified and more qualified umpires that would be officiating games, while coaching would help enhance the skills of our youth players. From practice to the actual games, the education that we received would facilitate in improving their baseball skills," Quitugua said.

Rogolifoi thanked the group for taking the time to complete the certification course that was done in cooperation of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs under Sec. Robert Hunter, who was represented by Jojo Attao and Steph Aulerio during the presentation of certificates.

"We're proud that we have a new group of BCO-certified umpires under SBL. Their certification allows them to become umpires in BCO tournaments in the Pacific Games, Mini Games, and our regional Micronesian Games and the Micronesian Baseball Classic," said Rogolifoi.

"We need new umpires especially those who would volunteer in Little League games. We [SBL] thank you for your dedication in completing the umpires and coaches courses," added Rogolifoi, who will also conduct a similar training with a group from Tinian before the year ends.

Attao congratulated the new umpires and urged them to continue with the learning process in officiating games.

"On behalf of Sec. Hunter, we congratulate you for completing the course. Eight is a lot since there are less than 10 [certified] umpires on Saipan. Whatever you decide or your call, you must stick with it. This is a Level I certification, hopefully you could earn Level II," added Attao.

Toves, who spoke on behalf of the group, thanked Rogolifoi and the entire SBL leadership under president Rose Igitol and DCCA for organizing the certification courses. "We need this in Rota that's why we are very thankful for getting the opportunity to earn BCO certification."

Toves, Rangamar, and Taisacan are from the Rota Sports Division, while Cabrera works for Rota's Department of Public Works, and Danny King with the Rota Municipal Council.

Rogolifoi, aside from being a BCO-certified instructor, is also a certified umpire along with Miwata, Celis, Tony Satur, and Highness Asanuma. Rogolifoi and BCO president Ray Brown signed the certificates of the new umpires.

NORTH

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Denise Myers, and Alfredo Guevarra played for the champion team.

HISYM completed a come-from-behind 22-20 win over North Shore in Game 1, even with Toni Yamada already cramping up. Game 1 was a battle of spurts and had several lead changes. North Shore went up 8-2, but HISYM scored seven straight points to steal the lead, 9-8. North Shore again went ahead by three, 11-9, and from thereon, the match was a see-saw affair.

The opener then reached a standoff, 20-20, before HISYM scored twice after winning back-to-back rallies to complete the Game 1 win and force a final showdown.

It was the same story in the rubbermatch with HISYM going toe-to-toe against the No. 1 seed team. HISYM even went up, 14-12, but North Shore dug deep from its arsenal, scoring four straight points to foil its opponents' upset bid.

North Shore went home with $500 cash plus cases of Pepsi and Magellan gift certificates, while HISYM also won cash and other in-kind prizes. Mister Fam, composed of the Misters (Logan, Tyce, Angie, and Dylan) and CPR Certified, which placed third and fourth, respectively, got gift certificates.

North Shore defeated Mister Fam, 21-19, to get the first finals berth with the semis game also having several lead changes. HISYM eliminated CPR Certified, 15-13, to earn the right of facing Mister Fam in the loser's bracket semifinals. HISYM then took the second finals berth after a 15-11 decision over Mister Fam, while the latter settled for third place.

Before the playoffs, North Shore went undefeated in pool play to earn the top seeding in the knockout phase of the one-day tournament. The eventual champion continued its amazing run in the one-and-done round to clinch the first finals berth and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

Meanwhile, limited edition shirts and beverages were provided by Pacific Trading Co. in the tournament that was also supported by PIC Saipan and Bridge Capital.

MPU

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MP United, which also ruled this year's spring and fall seasons of the boys U17 league, are Golden Glove awardee Chris Aninzo, Eui Jin Byen, Andy Cho, Eun Syu Hahn, Jun Bum Huh, Clayton Izuka, Oliver Lee, Kevin and Alex Park, Jonah Pohl, Skyler Poon, and Rinto Takahashi. Lydia Tan and Eric Abragan are the team manager and coach, respectively.

MP United had a rematch against TanHoldings for the Challenge Cup after the latter blanked Matansa, 3-0, in the other semis pairing. Mareko Tekopua, John Guiller Canape, and Emmanuel Aniana delivered the goals for TanHoldings.

With MP United winning anew against its perennial rival, the former was awarded the perpetual trophy in a brief awards ceremony after the title game last weekend. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association executive director Ruselle Zapanta presented the trophy to MP United.

Kanoa FC U12 at 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend

PHOTOS By GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Kanoa Football Club's Markus Toves uses his body to stop the ball during their game against Islanders Betde FC in last month's 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend held in Guam.

A Kanoa FC Player, center, receives a pass from his teammate.

Kanoa FC's Jim Kurt Maniago, left, goes for a header.

Kanoa FC's Andrew Sablan, right, slides in a bid to kick the ball out.

Kanoa FC's John Mark Anastacio faces two Islanders Betde FC defenders.

Kanoa FC's Daniel Mar Pablo, second left, leaps for a header.

Kanoa FC defenders keep a close eye on an Islanders Betde FC player.

Kanoa FC's Daniel Mar Pablo, left, stays close on defense against an Islanders Betde FC player.

Yankees set to reel in Stanton from Marlins

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Harden scores 48 points, Rockets win 9th in row

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MPU wins Challenge Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club topped the 2017 Fall Challenge Cup after shutting down TanHoldings FC in the finals, 4-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sunjoon Tenorio anchored MP United's easy victory as he made back-to-back goals to close out the team's offense. The MP United striker drilled his first goal in the 70th minute and the second and last one two minutes later.

Edwin Kim and Joshua Abragan were the other scorers in MP United's title victory over TanHoldings, which managed to force a scoreless draw in the first half before folding up on defense in the second. Kim broke the ice in the winner-take-all finale with his conversion in the 65th minute, while Abrahan made it a 2-0 advantage for MP United with his shot two minutes later. MP United remained aggressive on offense, paving the way for Tenorio's brace.

Tenorio ended up winning the Golden Boot award in the short tournament after earning three goals in two games. He had one in MP United's 5-1 triumph over Kanoa FC in their semis game last Wednesday. Anthony Fruit, Kwang Jo Lim, and Dai Podziewski were the other players who hit the board for MP United in their match versus Kanoa with the latter posting a pair.

Completing the roster of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United FC U17 players hoist the perpetual trophy after beating TanHoldings FC in the finals, 4-0, in the 2017 Fall Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

North Shore rules 4-person tourney

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The North Shore Warriors survived How I Set Your Mother's gallant stand to rule the Pacific Islands Club Saipan 4-Person Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday on the sand courts of the San Antonio hotel.

North Shore almost squandered its twice-to-beat advantage against HISYM as it lost the finals opener before making the necessary adjustments in Game 2 to squeeze out a 16-14 victory. Mike Omar, Ryan Camacho,

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JON PEREZ
North Shore teammates, Mike Omar, left, and Alfredo Guevarra, dive to keep the ball in play during Game 2 of their finals match against How I Set Your Mother during last Saturday's Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Four-Person Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Rota has 8 certified umpires

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has eight new baseball umpires after a group from Rota completed the second part of its Baseball Confederation Oceania Level I certification course over the weekend on Saipan.

Oscar Hocog Quitugua II heads the group composed of Ray Anthony T. Cabrera, Danny King, Jonovan Lizama, Daniel Rangamar Jr., Antonelli Rosario, Ryan Taisacan, and Albert H. Toves. The eight stayed on Saipan for almost a week to earn their BCO certificates and they also attended a coaching course.

Before coming to Saipan, the group had the first part of its certification seminar in Rota in October with BCO-certified instructor Tony Rogolifoi teaching them about theories and actual officiating of games. They continued the umpires course here and took the final test last Saturday. Rogolifoi also allow them to help in officiating Saipan Baseball League games—Under 25 and Masters divisions—with the guidance of veteran umpire James Miwata. Roy Celis helped

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JON PEREZ
Saipan Baseball League president Rose Igitol, standing second left, and coordinator Tony Rogolifoi , third left, join the eight new Baseball Confederation of Oceania-certified umpires from Rota during yesterday's awarding ceremony at the Kilili Pavilion.